

May 14, 2007



TRANSCRIPT
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councilmember Marilyn Praisner, President	Councilmember Michael Knapp, Vice-President
Councilmember Phil Andrews	Councilmember Roger Berliner
Councilmember Marc Elrich	Councilmember Valerie Ervin
Councilmember Nancy Floreen	Councilmember George Leventhal
Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg	



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Vice President Knapp,

1 Good morning everyone. Welcome back to a sunny Monday morning. We are beginning
2 with a work session of FY08 Capital and Operating budgets. Our first agenda item this
3 morning is the Commission for Women. And I would invite whoever is here to speak on
4 their behalf to come to the table. Let me get to the right packet here. And for the benefit
5 of the technology we use for TV, it would be helpful if everyone would introduce
6 themselves and then I will turn it over to the Chair of the HHS Committee.

8 Ms. Vaughan-Prather,

9 I'm Judy Vaughan-Prather. I'm the Director of the Commission for Women.

11 Vice President Knapp,

12 Welcome.

14 Ms. Marcello,

15 Ruby Marcello, Budget and Management Specialist.

17 Ms. Rambo,

18 I'm Elma Rambo; I manage the Counseling and Career Center for the Commission for
19 Women.

21 Vice President Knapp,

22 Very good.

24 Ms. Feinberg,

25 Beryl Feinberg, OMB.

27 Vice President Knapp,

28 Okay (inaudible).

30 Ms. Hunter,

31 (Inaudible) Hunter, OMB.

33 Vice President Knapp,

34 Welcome.

36 Councilmember Leventhal,

37 All right. Thank you, Mr. Vice President. The County Council's Health and Human
38 Services Committee did approve the budget as recommended by the County Executive.
39 Jean Arthur, do you want to give us the highlights of the budget?

41 Ms. Arthur,

42 It's a same service budget. The things that we talked about were the Technology
43 Camps for Girls that they're hoping to fund about 27 camps, which is included in this



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1 budget. The highlight of the budget amount is \$1,285,680, and they have 11.6 work
2 years.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,

5 Okay, Jean, thank you. As I say this was a fairly simple discussion. We're looking
6 forward to the 35th Anniversary Celebration of the Commission for Women on June 7th.
7 We're looking forward to the statistical analysis of the status of women in Montgomery
8 County. This study is being completed within the budget of the Commission for Women,
9 and, Judith, what is the complete cost, if I could just get my colleague's attention to this
10 of the study of status of women.

11
12 Ms. Vaughan-Prather,

13 Well, the complete amount that we were given was \$13,000 each year for two years.
14 Then we had \$4,000 to print it with.

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,

17 Very good. So total cost of a complete analysis of more than half of the County's
18 population -- \$30,000.

19
20 Ms. Vaughan-Prather,

21 Yes, sir.

22
23 Councilmember Leventhal,

24 Well we commend you for your efficiency, and we're looking forward very much to the
25 release of this report. And I anticipate being able to draw many useful conclusions for
26 policy-making across a wide range of issues from this study; and we look forward to it
27 very much.

28
29 Ms. Vaughan-Prather,

30 I'd like to just point out if I could. Deborah Heran, the President of the Commission for
31 Women, is here with us.

32
33 Councilmember Leventhal,

34 Good morning, Deborah.

35
36 Ms. Vaughan-Prather,

37 She also worked very, very, very actively on that committee that did the status of
38 women report, so we were able to do it with that tiny bit of resources but also with a
39 tremendous amount of volunteer time on the part of our commissioners.

40
41 Councilmember Leventhal,

42 Well that's a very important point, Judith. I appreciate that, because we have many
43 proposals for studies and we often suggest that we try as much as we can to
44 incorporate volunteer participation. So the Commission for Women, I think, is the blue



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1 ribbon example of how something can get done at very little cost that will be of great
2 help to us in policy-making. So thank you again. Deborah or Judith, is there anything
3 else you would like to say to us about the commission's work?
4

5 Ms. Vaughan-Prather,

6 We do hope you all will come to the event. We've been working on very, very short staff
7 this year. Just an unfortunate combination of events. I am happy to introduce our new --
8 Ruby isn't even on staff full time yet; she started two weeks ago part-time because she's
9 finishing up her master's degree next week. And she'll start full time the first of June.
10 We've been working very, very hard to accomplish these things this year. I'm really
11 hoping that you will get a chance to look over the report. I have like the preprinted
12 version of it. And the reason we were able to do it the way we did in addition to the
13 volunteered efforts of the commissioners, was because we used a method called
14 secondary analysis, where you use of databases that other people have already
15 gathered -- the census, the police, all kinds of databases -- and then pull out the data
16 that was relevant to the study we were doing.
17

18 Councilmember Leventhal,

19 Very good. I also want to thank the Commission for Women for producing some
20 extremely useful and helpful documents to assist domestic workers to be educated
21 about how to execute a model contract with employers in homes, and also educating
22 housekeepers and baby sitters and other domestic laborers about their rights. That was
23 a very helpful document and I hope it gets wide dissemination throughout the
24 community.
25

26 Ms. Vaughan-Prather,

27 We have been distributing -- we distributed it to over 110 agencies and carried on a little
28 mini, you know, public information campaign, and got on as many radio stations and
29 newspapers as we could, including some in Spanish. I thought you would be interested
30 to know -- we had that actually graphically designed and printed at the school system's
31 print shop. And they were so excited about it; they nominated it for an award -- Best
32 Practices award. Some national award -- it didn't win it, but they thought it -- they said it
33 made very, very efficient use of resources. They thought just the design of it all together
34 was very efficient.
35

36 Councilmember Leventhal,

37 Great. Okay, Mr. Vice President, I can't see any light.
38

39 Vice President Knapp,

40 There are no lights.
41

42 Councilmember Leventhal,

43 Any colleagues have comments on the Commission for Women?
44



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1 Vice President Knapp,
2 Okay, then without objection the budget moves forward as recommended.

3
4 Ms. Vaughan-Prather,
5 Thank you very much.

6
7 Vice President Knapp,
8 Thank you very much.

9
10 Councilmember Leventhal,
11 Thank you very much.

12
13 Vice President Knapp,
14 Just a quick announcement as we're changing to the next agenda item, which is the
15 Human Rights Commission. The grants, which are scheduled for this afternoon, are
16 actually deferred until Wednesday. So Item 18, NDA Community Grants, is deferred
17 until Wednesday. And Mrs. Praisner, the Council President, is delayed on other Council
18 business this morning. She'll be joining us a little bit later. Good morning. For the benefit
19 of those who are watching, if you could introduce -- thank you.

20
21 Ms. Shannon,
22 Good morning. I would like to introduce my staff. Michael Dennis, who is the Director of
23 Compliance; and Debra Jones, who is our Administrative Specialist; and Rose Glavinic,
24 who has helped us through all of our budget activities.

25
26 Vice President Knapp,
27 And Beryl Feinberg is still here.

28
29 Ms. Shannon,
30 Beryl (inaudible).

31
32 Vice President Knapp,
33 Mr. Chairman.

34
35 Councilmember Leventhal,
36 Thank you, Mr. Vice President. We welcome our distinguished director of the Office of
37 Human Rights, Odessa Shannon, and as with the Commission for Woman, the Health
38 and Human Services Committee did not have any real issues with the County
39 Executive's recommendations. Jean, do you want to highlight those for us, please.

40
41 Ms. Arthur,
42 (Inaudible) issues just things to point out. They're doing once again the biannual Hall of
43 Fame dinner, which -- well the last time you did it was two years ago; and that's a cost
44 of \$30,000. And like the Commission for Women, this group also does something for



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1 middle school children and this is the Human Rights Camp. And once again they will be
2 doing that this year.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,
5 Great. Ms. Shannon, what is the date of the Hall of Fame dinner this year?

6
7 Ms. Shannon,
8 We haven't set the date, but it is usually in March.

9
10 Councilmember Leventhal,
11 In March of '08?

12
13 Ms. Shannon,
14 Of '08.

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,
17 Okay. I have no further comments. Mr. Vice President.

18
19 Vice President Knapp,
20 There are no lights.

21
22 Ms. Shannon,
23 Well we'd like to thank you for your continued support.

24
25 Vice President Knapp,
26 Thank you very much. The committee recommendation moves forward.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,
29 Thank you very much.

30
31 Vice President Knapp,
32 Okay, our next item is the NDA for Historical Activities, the Historical Society.

33
34 Councilmember Leventhal,
35 Okay, I'm going to let Mr. Berliner take the lead on this. He's our lead member for
36 Libraries and Cultural Affairs. It's Agenda Item 10.

37
38 Councilmember Berliner,
39 And I will ask staff to lead us through it.

40
41 Vice President Knapp,
42 Let's have everyone introduce themselves first.

43
44 Ms. Harper,



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1 I'm Mary Kay Harper, and I'm the Director of the Historical Society. And this is Karen
2 Laudes, and she is our Education Director.

3
4 Vice President Knapp,
5 Welcome.

6
7 Ms. Arthur,
8 Okay each year the County gives some money to the Historical Society to -- they do so
9 many things for the County, including right now they have taken over our archives and
10 trying to sort them out and make sure that they're preserved for future generations, et
11 cetera. And also one of the newer projects that they have is programming at the Water's
12 House up in Germantown. That was started a few years ago. They are really trying to
13 develop different activities and that sort of thing. So this money that we give them,
14 \$64,500, they use for those projects as well as using it to fund raise -- use it as
15 matching funds.

16
17 Councilmember Berliner,
18 Thank you. Are there any -- I don't see any lights on.

19
20 Vice President Knapp,
21 No, there aren't. Okay, thank you all very much. Moving right along. Our Issue number 1
22 -- although it's issue number 4 for the morning, is Fire and Rescue Services. So I would
23 invite -- they were all here. We're just models of efficiency this morning. Good morning,
24 Chief Carr. For the benefit of our television viewers, if you could introduce yourself and
25 the rest of the panel.

26
27 Chief Carr,
28 Fire Chief Tom Carr.

29
30 Vice President Knapp,
31 Thank you very much.

32
33 Mr. Espinoza,
34 Alex Espinoza, with OMB.

35
36 Ms. Glavinic,
37 And Rose Glavinic, OMB.

38
39 Vice President Knapp,
40 Welcome. I'll turn it over to Mr. Andrews, Chair of the Public Safety Committee.

41
42 Councilmember Andrews,
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning everybody and this is the Fire and Rescue Service
44 budget, which is one of our larger budgets, and one of the more complicated ones as



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1 well in terms of the scope of activities and the amount of change that has occurred in
2 the past few years, and the numbers of initiatives underway at the same time. A lot of
3 important initiatives are going forward in this budget, some of which are continuations of
4 previous years, such as four-person staffing entering its second phase. The
5 implementation of a major new initiative to expand code enforcement so that all of our
6 major buildings in the County are inspected on a regular basis, which is critical to
7 reducing the number of fire events and the damage that results when they occur. So
8 there is a tremendous amount of change underway in the department. The department
9 is making good progress on its master plan objectives. We had three work sessions in
10 the Public Safety committee on the Fire and Rescue Service budget. There's a report in
11 the packet that details the progress made on each of the major objectives in the plan,
12 such as the CIP projects, which is the top plan; the apparatus purchase. We have \$30
13 million worth of new apparatus on its way. We have worked on future station locations
14 or station areas that will need to be added to the CIP after we're done with completing
15 the Germantown station, the Clarksburg station, the Travila station, which are all in
16 various stages right now. So there is a lot going on at the same time the department is
17 making good progress on most its objectives. I'm going to go through the packet pretty
18 much in the order that has been presented by Minna Davidson, who has done an
19 excellent job in preparing this. And the packet, as you can see, has all kinds of good
20 supporting information. Take my word for it. It's very thorough. It's a weighty packet and
21 properly so, because it's a very complicated and important department, and they're
22 doing a lot at the same time. Let me see first if Chief Carr has any comments that he
23 would like to make about this budget and where it will take us, and then I'll see if Minna
24 Davidson has any comments, and then we'll go through the packet.

25
26 Chief Carr,

27 Thank you. Just very briefly. This budget continues to build on our four-person staffing
28 initiative which is critical to our success in reducing response times and specifically
29 impacting advance life support of paramedic response. And that is an area that we
30 believe we need to provide the most immediate focus on. And certainly the four-person
31 staffing assures that one of the persons being a paramedic assures that as medics are
32 utilized in a given area on transport units, there is still advanced life support capability in
33 that community as the next call comes in. And certainly we've recognized that during
34 peak hours of the day this happens all the time. And to that end, we've had support from
35 the Council last year, and hope for support on the reconciliation this year of additional
36 flex units which increase our transport capacity, our EMS capacity, and ultimately drive
37 down advance life support response time. So I think those are the most important
38 initiatives that are addressed in this budget along with continued recruiting and retention
39 efforts for career and volunteer personnel and support for our volunteer facilities and all
40 of those efforts that are continued are very positive and continue us on the right path.

41
42 Councilmember Andrews,

43 Thank you. Minna, do you have any comments you want to make? Okay. The focus of
44 the Fire and Rescue budget is to provide a timely and effective response to fire rescue



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1 and emergency medical calls. That's what it's all about. And all of the components in
2 here are meant to advance that goal and make it so that we're improving constantly in
3 achieving that. If you look at Circle 103 of the packet there is a very good table that
4 shows the different stations in the County -- the different departments are listed on the
5 left of 40, and shows the size of the first due area, shows the number of events. I think
6 this is a really useful one page summary for the challenge we face in terms of
7 addressing the need to have adequate response time for advanced life support, basic
8 life support and fire calls. And there's a direct correlation. If you look at the 12 stations, a
9 tremendous variation in terms of the size of the first due response area, ranging from
10 almost 40 square miles, actually 88 square miles for upper Montgomery in the first due
11 area to two miles in Silver Spring, for the Silver Spring station. And there's everything in
12 between. But if you look at the 12 stations that have the largest first due area, you'll find
13 none of those 12 are in the top 12 for response time. That's no coincidence. It certainly
14 is -- there are very close correlation between the size of the first due area and average
15 response time. Adversely, if you look at the four stations that have the smallest first due
16 areas -- Silver Spring, Takoma Park, Chevy Chase and Montgomery Hills -- they have
17 the top four average ALS. They have the best four ALS response times. So there's a
18 close correlation, which is why it's so important to get the stations, that are underway
19 now, built in those areas of the County where the square mileage is -- the first due area
20 is substantially larger than the average in order to reduce the response time. Because
21 response time is so directly connected to distance and travel time. And so I thought it
22 was a helpful chart. It also shows that there are significant differences between how
23 many events different stations handle. For example station eight in Gaithersburg is by
24 far the busiest station in the County in terms of events -- 8500 last year. Which is about
25 20% more than the next highest which was Rockville station, and then on down the line.
26 So the chief, of course, has factored all of this into how he assigned personnel and
27 assigns equipment. But there is a lot of variety from station to station within the County
28 as well. So I thought the chart was very helpful and really demonstrates the importance
29 of location in terms of having fire stations within a certain driving distance of response
30 times. It's fair to say that most of the time in the urban sections of the County we are
31 actually meeting. Most of the time we're meeting the goals for ALS and fire, but the
32 average is higher than our goal in most cases because we're factoring in the suburban
33 and rural areas as well, which pull the average up. So there's a lot of variety within the
34 stations in terms of the response time. And again, that's largely due to the size of the
35 first due area. And it's brought out by the chart. All right. Let's go through the budget. If
36 we start on page 7, the first issue that the committee dealt with was the Fire Safety
37 Code Enforcement Program, which is now going to be going full speed this year. This is
38 really a model program to improve life safety. Every time the fire service goes out, it
39 finds violations almost without exception in buildings. Fairfax County found this as well.
40 And we want to get ahead of the curve and reduce the chance of a catastrophic fire or
41 the amount of damage that otherwise might occur. So, this is a fee-based -- fee-funded
42 program which is important to note. There are 26 work years involved in this program.
43 It's a \$4 million program in this coming fiscal year. But it will -- the budget is entirely
44 based on fee support over the first three or four years of the program. And it will I'd think



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1 without question improve public safety and give us a very good idea of where the
2 problems are that the Fire Service has sometimes not seen until it's actually called to an
3 event. We don't want to have to wait for that. I see a light down the way there.

4
5 Councilmember Floreen,

6 I have a question about the department's interpretation of Code Enforcement
7 obligations. Chief, when you go out and see a situation that might not meet the current
8 code requirements, is that an immediate -- do you find it in violation at that point, even if
9 there's been no change in the premises for many years? I'm sure that's the typical
10 situation.

11
12 Chief Carr,

13 Life safety violations must be immediately corrected, and that's -- we cite them and we
14 help the management or the occupants get through life safety issues. In fact, there are
15 so concerning that often they require a fire watch to get those issues resolved; whether
16 that be an alarm system, or a sprinkler system, or something of that nature. Other
17 issues, the more long-term types of issues that you talk about, we will cite them with a
18 notice of violation. But we'll work with them on a plan to mitigate the circumstances.

19
20 Councilmember Floreen,

21 So is it that there are different levels of Fire Code adherence that are enforced basically
22 in terms of immediate life-threatening situation and a more basic need to adjust to new
23 code requirements?

24
25 Chief Carr,

26 Yes. And all the (inaudible) code requirements start with the whole concept of this new
27 Code Enforcement initiative. It is a start with education and assuring that the
28 management companies understand what the issues and the concerns are. And we
29 work with them to develop a plan to mitigate that circumstance. But life safety requires
30 immediate mitigation.

31
32 Councilmember Floreen,

33 Okay. What falls into that category?

34
35 Chief Carr,

36 Alarm systems, exit doors, electrical issues, sprinkler systems, things of that nature.

37
38 Councilmember Floreen,

39 Okay, thanks.

40
41 Councilmember Andrews,

42 Any other questions about the Fire Code Enforcement Program? All right. The second
43 issue the committee examined is a four-person staffing. And this is phase two that we
44 would enter with this year. As you'll recall, we funded a grant received by the Federal



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1 Government called the Safer Grant to get phase two started. And what is proposed in
2 the budget is to bring on -- what was proposed to bring on the balance of phase two for
3 the second year, beginning in April, which would have cost \$905,000 and been the
4 equivalent of six work years -- 24 core-year positions. The committee believes there
5 may have been very good arguments presented for four-person staffing and helping to
6 increase firefighter safety and to provide more access by the public to ALS providers.
7 But we do think that there would be no significant impact if these positions were brought
8 on at the tail end of the year rather than at the beginning of the fourth quarter. So the
9 committee is recommending, since the academy class would finish up in June or
10 thereabouts, If I'm remembering correctly, that we have these positions begin in June
11 rather than in April -- June 1st rather than April 1st, which will provide a savings of about
12 \$440,000 in this year's budget, and continued to -- but continue to keep the phase two
13 on target in terms of bringing the officers on in this fiscal year. The chief asked -- we
14 had a long discussion about this. It's an expensive but important initiative. We are
15 interested in whether there's some variations as to whether a four-person staffing on all
16 equipment is something that is essential or is more important than some other initiatives
17 that might be pursued. But the place where the four-person staffing clearly seems to be
18 most important and make the differences on the engines and that is what is underway
19 now. Let me ask Chief Carr to just give a quick update as to where four-person staffing
20 has been implemented to this point, and what we're hearing back about the initial
21 experience.

22
23 Chief Carr,

24 Four-person staffing has been implemented in stations in the western portion of the
25 County all the way down here to Rockville and up into Poolesville and Damascus. And
26 the impact of that has been significant. In fact, just some statistics as of now; impact on
27 ALS response time which is my greatest concern here to give you some perspective.
28 Station 14, Poolesville, we gained five seconds. That's not a big deal. But station 17,
29 where there was no ALS provider, there now is, we have five minutes ALS improvement
30 -- response time improvement. Station 23, which is Rockville, 30 second improvement.
31 Station 25, which is Leisure World, a minute and 20 seconds improvement. Station 28 a
32 minute and 40 seconds improvement. Darnestown, 30 seconds improvement. That's
33 just because we've added that second ALS provider on a separate unit. So just in one
34 month we've had a significant impact. Those times are really noteworthy. I think that if
35 we continue to implement the program, we're going to see our chart on page 103 that
36 described vastly improve by next year as we continue the implementation. So I can't
37 emphasize strongly enough that the impact not only on ALS response but also on
38 firefighting response, and the impact of being able to establish immediate water supply,
39 the impact of assembling two crews immediately is huge. As you know, we are
40 implementing this not only with career personnel, but a combination of career and
41 volunteer personnel where the volunteer personnel make a commitment to staff the third
42 position as well as the fourth position. Certainly we have done that. And in fact, in our
43 implementation of this plan, that has been our approach as folks have come forward
44 and said they can support the staffing, we embrace that. Critical implementation here,



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1 big impact. Also it needs to be noted that a big impact on paramedic recruitment and
2 retention. This is something that the region struggles with, in fact the country struggles
3 with is how to encourage and support paramedics coming on board and most
4 importantly staying on board and creating an environment that supports them and is
5 desirable. So this is part of that and this has already in a short time had that impact.

6
7 Councilmember Andrews,

8 Okay. The annualized cost of the four-person staffing is -- each phase is roughly \$3.6
9 million a year. Each position is roughly \$100,000, 36 work years will staff eight engines
10 24/7 with a fourth person because it takes 4.5 people to staff a position 24/7 on
11 average. So the annualized cost for this -- for next year, once phase two is
12 implemented, would be around \$7.2 million and possibly a bit more as factoring in
13 salary increases. I see Councilmember Elrich has a comment.

14
15 Councilmember Elrich,

16 I think after looking at the OLO report and then the discussion about overtime from the
17 I.G.'s office, and looking at the positions that we saw in there and a little discussion
18 about what could be really civilian and what needs to be firefighter. I mean I think it's
19 critically important that we spend this year actually looked at that question. Because one
20 way with can achieve or accelerate achieving four-person staffing is with the people you
21 have now, and not necessarily adding all new firefighters. It may mean adding positions,
22 but it may be civilian positions and maybe civilian positions who obviously have, you
23 know, different retirement schedule. But it was not clear to me at all that every position
24 and everything being done needs to be done by a firefighter. And if it doesn't and if we
25 can do this with civilian positions, we may be able to achieve what you want to achieve
26 without the ever expanding nature of this commitment. And I think the numbers as we
27 have looked at in terms of future stations and where we're going are rather large. And
28 briefly I think it's important that we look at other ways of achieving it without going down
29 this path as we are right now.

30
31 Councilmember Andrews,

32 Okay. We'll look at all potential options and work with the Chief to figure out what works
33 best and that's most efficient and effective. So we'll continue to come back to this. It's an
34 important issue. It is expensive, and we want to find ways if possible to reduce the cost.
35 Any other questions? Okay. All right. The issue three on page 12 was about personnel
36 costs. There is \$7 million increased for flex changes in compensation. OLO did a very
37 good analysis of the cost drivers in terms of salary and benefits and compensation
38 overall. The biggest cost driver has been the large increase in retirement costs.
39 Retirement costs in the fire service essentially tripled over a five or six-year period as a
40 result of changes made in the collective bargaining agreement, in terms of the changes
41 in relation to Social Security, and also the adoption of the 20-year retirement versus
42 what had been a 25-year retirement. So those are contributing to substantially
43 increased retirement costs, which are the biggest change. Medical costs have gone up
44 a lot as well, about 80% in those five years, but that's not unique to the Fire Service.



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1 And salary increases have been about on par with the other agencies. Any questions
2 about personnel costs. Okay. For the first time in the annualization of the Apparatus
3 Management Plan is included in the budget which is appropriate because it is an
4 ongoing obligation. It's very important to have a good maintenance plan for apparatus
5 will be especially to make sure that the new apparatus is well maintained. There is a
6 breakout on Circle 37 that details -- it is Circle 37 that details the components of the
7 \$2.5 million annual costs for this plan; fairly straight forward. I think Council has seen
8 the elements before, and the Public Safety Committee recommends that be part of the
9 budget -- Operating Budget and not a supplemental.

10
11 Vice President Knapp,

12 Just one comment. And I thank the Chair. You kind of alluded to this that the Council
13 really has driven the whole Apparatus Management Plan over the course of the last four
14 years in conjunction with the Fire and Rescue Service, particularly as a result of an
15 office oversight report. And so I'm pleased to see the Executive make the
16 recommendations that he has. There are still a number of pieces that are out there from
17 how we do the maintenance, who do we -- we have a number of new pieces of
18 apparatus that are coming online beginning in the next couple of weeks. And to begin
19 this I think it's important for us if we bring back the committee how all those pieces are
20 dove-tailing so over the course of the next year, we can bring those elements back to
21 the Council just to keep everyone apprised.

22
23 Councilmember Andrews,

24 You're right. We will do that because the department is very eager to find a central
25 maintenance -- a site for a central maintenance facility. It's a challenge for the
26 department to find and maintain and - find space to maintain the vehicles in a way that's
27 efficient now. So they are looking at different options for a central maintenance facility.
28 And we will come back to that soon. All right. Issue on page 14 -- issue five is
29 Occupational Medical Adjustment. This is an increase in the contract of about \$500,000.
30 This is a significant increase and this will be about a million and a half cost for fiscal
31 year '08 for this Occupational Medical Services contract in this year. I understand that
32 the MFP Committee had a discussion about this issue and probably will be coming back
33 to it. Perhaps we'll have a joint committee meeting on that with the Management and
34 Fiscal Policy Committee to look at this across departments. But this is an important
35 program, and most of the costs related to this is a result of the Fire and Rescue Service
36 ensuring that this contract will include components of case management that the
37 previous one did not. Okay. Issue 6: Volunteer Firefighter Bargaining implementation.
38 As my colleagues are aware, the Fire and Rescue Service has established a contract
39 agreement with the volunteers that we believe the first of its kind in the nation. And one
40 that is designed to demonstrate the County's commitment to continuing a service that
41 includes both career and volunteers. We're very appreciative of the terrific work and
42 dedication that is put in by our volunteer Fire and Rescue personnel, who join with our
43 dedicated career personnel to provide a tremendous amount of service. And that saves
44 a great deal of money to taxpayers as a result of the high number of hours that are put



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1 in. What has changed over the years is the training requirements have changed in a
2 number of areas. It is more of a challenge for a lot of reasons to recruit and retain
3 volunteer personnel. The bar is higher to get trained because of a lot of new
4 requirements. And the change in people's lifestyles and societal changes have made it
5 a challenge to continue to recruit at the same level. So this is a continuing challenge;
6 one that we have to work hard to overcome. The first strategy is to have effective
7 retention strategies for those volunteers in place now, and then to do effective recruiting
8 to make sure that we continue to have a thriving volunteer component of our service.
9 This outlines the components which include traditional things like the length of service
10 over what which is about 40% of the \$500,000; winter coats will be provided to all
11 volunteers; that's \$170,000. There are some association expenses, \$80,000 and so on
12 for a total of \$520,000. There is administrative support proposed of a half work year of
13 \$32,000 to help implement the contract, and the committee supported that. We do have
14 some questions in committee about the position that is included in the Office of Human
15 Resources budget, which we did actually deal with. We didn't bring the subject but it
16 was the budget was dealt with at the end of last week. There is a full-time position in
17 there for what your (inaudible) and (inaudible) the contract as well. We did have
18 questions about whether that position was necessary. We felt that the position in the
19 Fire Service was, but we weren't sure. And I think it's -- we may not want to have a
20 discussion on it now, but it's something that we raised questions about as to whether
21 that work year in the Office of Human Resources budget was needed for the workload.
22 It's important to note that there is \$400,000 in for facility maintenance for the local
23 stations. This is not enough, but it's helpful to help maintain the stations, which we need
24 to do. One thing that is related to this contract implementation which we took out of the
25 budget was \$25,000, which was included for a warehouse worker to help with the
26 distribution of some of the materials that are provided by the contract, such as the
27 coats. We did not feel that that position was necessary. For that we felt that that could
28 be absorbed by existing personnel or done with volunteer help. And so we did take that
29 \$25,000 reduction in the warehouse worker position. And that -- what I discussed earlier
30 about the four-person staffing was a reduction of \$454,000 by having the positions
31 begin in June rather than April. Issue 7 is on page 18; no, it's on 17. There are some
32 cost increases that are related to one-time adjustments that are detailed on page 17.
33 Page 18: Personnel Cost issue. This is a big one and this deals with overtime in the
34 service. Let me start by saying that overtime is always going to be an important
35 component of Public Safety work. Partly because of the nature of the departments and
36 the unpredictable of how many emergencies there will be or when they will occur. And
37 because one cannot bring on new personnel quickly in the Fire and Rescue Service or
38 police or corrections, so for that reason overtime is often the only viable option to
39 dealing with something that has to be done quickly. It's also worth noting that because
40 the benefits costs are very substantial for public safety personnel, averaging about 60%
41 of salary, that if overtime the time and a half, it's no more expensive and sometimes
42 actually less expensive to use overtime than to bring on a new position. That said, it's
43 also important that overtime be very well managed and documented; that individuals not
44 have so much overtime that they burnout, that it gets to an unhealthy level, and of



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1 course that it be well tracked. One of the challenges the department has faced that was
2 documented in the Inspector General's report was the need to better manage the
3 documentation of overtime. The Inspector General indicated that there was a need for a
4 lot of improvement in this area in the service. The Chief has been working diligently as
5 he was briefed by the Inspector General about his findings to make policy changes to
6 ensure that there is adequate documentation of overtime and that policies are adhered
7 to. One of the challenges the service has faced is the lack of an effective data
8 management system that can track this effectively. And they are in the process of
9 addressing that also. In the meantime, we have been working to come up with what is a
10 reasonable number to use for overtime. The department, although it has consistently
11 spent more on overtime than has been placed in the budget, has not come back for
12 supplementals because they have been able to pay for that overtime with what was
13 budgeted in overall salary budget. Since I noted the relation between overtime and
14 positions is not necessarily what one would think. In public safety, overtime is not
15 necessarily more expensive than adding positions. So the department and the Office of
16 Human Resources are continuing to work on pinning down what the right number
17 should be for overtime. This has been an issue across departments that we have
18 worked on the last few years to try to come up with a number that is one that is realistic
19 and that we can hold departments accountable for staying within. The first job is for the
20 departments to know really what the shift relief factor is, which means how many people
21 are needed to cover a position 24/7 throughout the department; what's the right number
22 of positions that's needed to fill the known needed positions; and then at that point
23 overtime will normally be minimized to the extent that's possible for filling known
24 positions and used for the many situations in public safety departments where one can't
25 predict what will happen from day-to-day. The amount that's currently included in the
26 budget for overtime and for miscellaneous expenditures related to personnel is \$15
27 million. And after consultation with some of my colleagues and with the support of my
28 colleagues on the Public Safety Committee, if they agree, what I would recommend is
29 that we assume a figure of \$12 million in the budget for overtime for this coming year.
30 Some of that will be achieved by bringing on the four-person staffing later on in the year;
31 some of which would have been filled with overtime. And on Circle 47 there's a very
32 helpful chart that shows what the projected staffing levels are over the next three years
33 based on how many recruits we expect to bring on in the classes in each of the two
34 classes. And you'll see that we are expecting that there will be significant overages in
35 FY08, particularly in the second half of the year. And given that we are looking at
36 bringing the four-person staffing on later; given that we expect the department is
37 tightening up its management of overtime, I would recommend that we go with a \$12
38 million assumption for the fiscal year. If the department has an emergency, of course, it
39 will fill the position, and we will get a request for supplemental, if necessary. But I would
40 recommend we use \$12 million, which is actually roughly the same amount we are
41 budgeting for the police overtime this year.

42
43 President Praisner,

44 And do I understand that's a Public Safety Committee recommendations



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1
2 Councilmember Andrews,
3 I believe it is; I see nods, so.

4
5 President Praisner,
6 Then the committee's recommendation would stand as modified.

7
8 Councilmember Andrews,
9 Okay. Issue 9: the Automatic External Defibrillators. We asked Chief Carr to update the
10 Council on the status of this program.

11
12 Chief Carr,
13 Well the good news is yesterday we saved a 71-year-old man on the corner of Ryland
14 and Old George Town in Bethesda. This happened to be based on an engine company
15 that were driving by and saw it, jumped out with their AD; and he's alive, walking and
16 talking. Just two weeks ago we saved a gentleman down at Littonsville Health Facility in
17 Silver Spring. I forget how old he was. I think he was in his 50's; he's alive, walking and
18 talking. This program is just having -- as it grows, having a remarkable impact. And as I
19 briefed the Public Safety Committee many times before, the impact of this simple device
20 is so huge that getting it in the hands of the public is so huge that immediate response
21 capability coupled with our first responders and our advanced life support here we're
22 saving lives. We've got well over a dozen lives saved in the time that it's been in place.
23 This year the state is requiring we place them all high schools, and that will be a
24 significant number of additional units. So it's just a tremendous program, and thanks to
25 Council President Praisner for her leadership in this area, last week we received a
26 National Heart Safe Community award as the most Heart Safe Community in the
27 United States. So we're certainly proud. I should have brought it over today. And I can't
28 say enough about the impact for limited resource requirement on our part the impact is
29 huge. Of course the resource continues to go up as the numbers go up, because the
30 program requires oversight, it requires maintenance, and if you don't do that much like
31 the apparatus, I guess, if you don't do that it's not going to be there when you need it.

32
33 Unidentified,
34 That's great.

35
36 President Praisner,
37 If I might comment; unfortunately there was a piece of legislation that would have
38 helped a little with the requirements and structure, but it was -- and it was supported by
39 the state government. But it didn't get filed until late. So it didn't make -- it made it
40 through the House, but it didn't make it through the Senate. And I'm hopeful that we can
41 continue to look at the legal requirements and issues associated with staffing because I
42 think that is an issue. And we'll work with staff to try to get someone to sponsor it early
43 and hopefully the state and the government will sponsor it again and we can get that
44 passed in the next session. We did have a request during the public hearing process for



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1 folks to for us to install AD's in police cars. And I don't know that we've gotten a formal
2 response, but it would be helpful if at some point after the budget -- we're not going to
3 be able to do that in the budget process, but I think the County and it's time to bring the
4 group together again, Tom, I think. But I think the County needs to review exactly where
5 the AD's are and what the next step of the deployment as far as government buildings is
6 concerned. Obviously with recreation centers and the health clubs, that was the most
7 important place. And we have three in this building as well -- or two in this building as
8 well. But the important thing is to monitor where we go with that, and to have a long-
9 range plan for that. As you said the legislation requires, I believe, all high schools to
10 have one, but there's a problem with that one and where you put it. And I don't think the
11 General Assembly fully understood the implications and what is actually necessary from
12 that perspective. So I think from a requirement's perspective as well as from a
13 deployment perspective, we have more work that needs to be done, and I look forward
14 to working with the department on those issues.

15
16 Councilmember Andrews,

17 Thank you, Madam President, for your leadership in this area. It's already making a
18 difference. Okay, Issue 10 is on page 21. That's the Mobile Volunteer Core Position. We
19 did include funding in the current budget for half-year funding for this. The department
20 indicates that it's in the process of filling the position. And the committee had some
21 discussion about this; it does support filling the position. There were concerns raised by
22 the Volunteer Fire Rescue Association about this concerns that it might draw volunteers
23 away from the traditional types of volunteer activities at the stations. What we have
24 heard is that this position is envisioned to use volunteers in nontraditional capacities, or
25 at least capacities that would not be done usually at a station. For example, the
26 volunteers might be used to assist with Code Enforcement or educational activities
27 about different safety measures. And so the department envisions centralized activities
28 that volunteers could assist with. And we will monitor this position to see how it works.
29 The department believes it will be helpful in this area. And we hope it's very successful.
30 And we'll continue to work. And I've said this before; I think we have to have a very
31 comprehensive approach to recruiting as many volunteers as we can bring into the Fire
32 Service to help in a variety capacities. So it is a constant challenge, and one that we all
33 benefit from if we're successful. And I know the Chief has -- I want commend Chief Carr
34 for his real diligence in working very, very closely to make sure that volunteer
35 opportunities are enhanced in the system. I know the Chief meets constantly with
36 representatives of the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association to work out issues, and I
37 think that's made a huge difference. That really is it, except for this, and that is that the
38 committee does recommend two items for the reconciliation list. The flex units have
39 been very helpful as the chief indicated in freeing up advanced life supporter providers.
40 There are two in place now at Station 8 in Gaithersburg and Station 25 in Kensington.
41 And the committee recommends putting \$357,000 on the reconciliation list to add
42 another flex unit that would be a full-time flex unit; and also offering the option of doing
43 that for half a year if the Council cannot find the funds for a full year additional flex unit.
44 These are very important really to make an immediate difference, and we hope the



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1 Council will find the resources to do that. In addition, the committee supports adding
2 \$25,000 to the reconciliation list to provide part-time administrative staff to assist the
3 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association representatives in their duties. This is an
4 important need that they have, and I believe that is would enhance their ability to focus
5 on the policy issues that they need to spend a great amount of time on, and the
6 operational issues where freeing them up from some of the administrative tasks which
7 can be close to overwhelming. So currently the committee recommends that addition to
8 the reconciliation list, and I hope that my colleagues will bring that off of it and put it in
9 the budget at the appropriate time.

10
11 President Praisner,
12 Vice President Knapp.

13
14 Vice President Knapp,
15 Thank you, Madam President. I just want to thank the Chair for his leadership and
16 walking through all the pieces here today and his commitment to public safety. Also
17 wanted to commend Eric Bernard and Marcine Goodlow for their efforts in leading the
18 MCVFRA because I know that it is truly in some respects a herding of cats and getting a
19 lot of interests that are very (inaudible) many days aligned and moving in the right
20 direction. So I thank you for your efforts. And I also want to thank Chief Carr for his
21 ability to really -- to communicate. It sounds like a simple thing but often times it is much
22 more difficult and it is not given the type of attention that it should. And I think even if
23 you look at issues that more difficult like the overtime issue, that it's easy for special
24 leaders to kind of back away from; Chief Carr's whole approach is to really grab the
25 issue, own the issue, and really be willing to talk about it in front of everybody and say
26 yes, we're going to hear the issues and we're going to work on it, he's hoping to fix it,
27 and we're committed to working with you and communicating with you on how we're
28 going to do that. And I think as we look throughout government or leadership in general,
29 I think that's a model that others should look to emulate. And I appreciate your
30 willingness to do that, because I think that it really allows us to deal with the issue as
31 opposed to dealing with all of the peripheral elements that tend to go with those types of
32 issues. So I thank you for that and I thank you for your efforts with MCVFRA as well.

33
34 President Praisner,
35 Okay. Councilmember Elrich.

36
37 Councilmember Elrich,
38 I also want to thank the Chief. I think that you've brought a lot of difficult issues before
39 us and then some additional issues that ended up in our laps that are also difficult. And I
40 really appreciate your frankness and willingness to discuss them, and I think the
41 discussions we had for the Fire Service were really eye opening, and for me anyway.
42 And I think that your willingness to be open to different ways of going forward and not
43 just saying this is the only way is just really refreshing. Because I think we face real
44 challenges in leadership that's willing to look at how to deal with future challenges rather



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1 than saying this is the only road you can travel. It's going to be really helpful, so thank
2 you and thank the volunteers for the work you do. This department relies so heavily on
3 people who aren't paid to provide a critical service and it wouldn't work without the
4 cooperation of both sides. And I appreciate all of that.

5
6 Councilmember Andrews,
7 Madam President, I would like to suggest that we go to Agenda Item 4 next, which are
8 the CIP amendments, since we have Chief Carr here and these are all fire-related
9 amendments. And then we'll go to Homeland Security after that.

10
11 President Praisner,
12 Is Linda around? Buzz for Linda McMillan. Ask her to join us.

13
14 Councilmember Andrews,
15 Okay. All right. This -- the committee -- .

16
17 President Praisner,
18 Minna, do you want to take them all and if -- yeah, sure.

19
20 Councilmember Andrews,
21 They're pretty straight forward. The committee had work sessions on these
22 amendments, and we -- there are five presented before you; the Public Safety Training
23 Academy and the Travilah Fire Station, which is planned to be located there, is really
24 tied into that; the East Germantown Fire Station, the Takoma Park Fire Station
25 replacement, and the Clarksburg Fire Station. On the Public Safety Training Academy
26 and the Travilah Fire Station, we are waiting eagerly for the County Executive's decision
27 about whether to pursue the idea of relocating the Public Safety Training Academy to
28 another location. We expect to have a recommendation from the County Executive by
29 the end of the month -- by the end of May. And so as soon as we get that
30 recommendation, we'll come back as a committee and evaluate it, and make the
31 recommendation to the Council. It's very important that a decision be made soon. The
32 Public Safety Training Academy is one of the most overused public buildings in the
33 County, plays a critical role for police and fire, and is a staging ground for the Urban
34 Search and Rescue Team, and for emergency briefings and the like. So it's an
35 extremely important facility. It hasn't been renovated in more than 30 years, and really
36 needs that. The Travilah Fire Station is much needed as well to help take some of the
37 pressure off Station 31 the Rockville/Darnestown Town area. And that needs to stay on
38 track also. So we will come back to that as soon as we get a recommendation from the
39 County Executive. In the meantime, we recommend the amendments to the expenditure
40 schedule that are included in the PDF.

41
42 President Praisner,
43 Okay. I don't see any lights, so we'll deal with that and consider Item number 4
44 completed.



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Councilmember Andrews,

Oh, wait. We still have in terms of East Germantown -- East Germantown is -- remains on track, according to representatives from the Executive Branch from the Department of Public Works and Transportation. It remains on track. This reflects a move of some money to reflect when they expect the money to be allocated. But we were assured that this should not cause any delay in the FY09 expected completion date of the East Germantown Fire Station.

President Praisner,

Council Vice President Knapp.

Vice President Knapp,

Thank you, Madam President. As it relates to both this item and in the Public Safety Training Academy, I just -- we've had a number of discussions both in committee sessions and in public sessions. I appreciate the efforts of Fire and Rescue Service and DPWT to continue to move forward, but I think it's also important for us as a Council to continue to stay on top of this, because I think it's difficult to identify any more significant community facilities that we need to have constructed as quickly as we need them. I think it's very clear many of these projects have been in the CIP since the late '90s, early 2000, and we just have to get them constructed. We have nearly 500,000 people north of Rockville, and I know Mr. Andrews at the beginning of this session talked about response time, and you look at the amount of area that fire stations have to respond to, it's a direct correlation between their ability to get there or not get there. And so as the populations have increased, the fire capacity has not yet kept pace. Not that there hasn't been a recognition it needs to keep pace, not that there hasn't been any capital money there, now we just need to get them constructed. And the importance for that is not only for the population that has already come, but really for also looking at additional fire stations that we need to look at both in the east county and in other parts of the county as well. And so we may need to get to that part of the conversation. So I continue to urge everyone involved with all (inaudible) to move us quickly as we can to expedite the fire stations that are currently on the CIP, and continue to focus on those so we can then move to the next step so we can continue to ensure the safety of our residents.

President Praisner,

Well, if I can piggyback on that, I think the studies that we've seen recently do raise some questions, and I know we have a four-year strategic -- a multi-year strategic plan. But I think it does raise personally some questions about the types of facilities that we're building and whether in order to respond to the basic life support and life support issues that we're needing to look at both from a staffing perspective and from a structural perspective about the ambulance needs and that structure further in our fire service. So I hope we can use the next year to have a more comprehensive conversation about that. Some of the facilities that we maybe looking at needing or infill service so to speak



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1 that might not be a full service fire facility, but respond to the fact that most of our
2 responses these days appear to be related emergency medical services rather than fire.
3 So I hope we'll look at that issue.

4
5 Councilmember Andrews,

6 Yes, that's a very important point. There are about 100,000 responses a year in the fire
7 service; about 75% of those are for emergency medical calls; 1% are for structural fires;
8 and then there are quite a few other fires, such as automobile fires, some brush fires.
9 The challenge is that even though the structural fire is only 1%, there's still about a
10 thousand of them. And so the challenge is how do we make sure we're adequately
11 staffed so we can respond to the two or three structural fires we get on a daily basis in a
12 timely and effective way while adjusting to the increased demand for emergency
13 medical services and the burnout that it has on paramedics. And the Chief has made
14 adjustments through the flex units to release some of the pressure and the four-person
15 staffing assignments to address that. But it's a moving target, it really is. And yet we
16 know response time is a critical factor in saving lives and containing fires since fires
17 double every minute in size. We will continue to work with the Chief on how best to
18 meet those challenges. In term of the Takoma Park Fire Station, we were also assured
19 that the shifting of \$4 million from '08 to '10 in the CIP will not result in a delay in the
20 project that it reflects when the money will be spent. So that, I assume, is still the case.
21 Okay. And the Clarksburg Fire Station, which would replace the interim one that is there
22 now, is potentially slipping in completion according to the response we got. The
23 condemnation proceeding is taking longer than expected. And so it is possible that its
24 completion date could shift to FY11 from FY10. The department apparently is moving as
25 quickly as it can, and at least having the interim fire station there makes that less of a
26 problem than the other stations not being there at all. So those are the
27 recommendations of the Public Safety Committee.

28
29 President Praisner,

30 Okay. Again, as seeing know other lights, they stand. And we'll go back now. Thank
31 you, Chief Carr. Thank you, (inaudible). We'll move to the Department of Homeland
32 Security. And I would invite Gordon Aoyagi to join us, and anyone else who would like,
33 Gordon. And if folks at the table could introduce themselves, I'd appreciate it. And so
34 would the cable folks. Why don't we start with OMB this time.

35
36 Ms. Shabelski,
37 Alexandra Shabelski, OMB

38
39 Ms. Beck,
40 Mary Beck, OMB.

41
42 Mr. Aoyagi,
43 Gordon Aoyagi, Montgomery County Homeland Security



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1 Ms. Flynn,
2 And Darlene Flynn, Montgomery County Homeland Security.

3
4 President Praisner,
5 Okay. Back to you, Mr. Andrews.

6
7 Councilmember Andrews,
8 Thank you, Madam President. Mr. Aoyagi, do you have any initial comments you want
9 to make about the budget?

10
11 Mr. Aoyagi,
12 No, we certainly concur with the Public Safety Committee's recommendation. And we
13 appreciate the time and effort being devoted to our two primary missions. One is to
14 plan, prepare, prevent, respond and recover from major disasters that might occur; and
15 secondly, to secure county facilities.

16
17 Councilmember Andrews,
18 Probably the most substantial real life experience that the -- real life event that the
19 department was involved in the past year was the flooding related to the Lake
20 Needwood and the storm. Do you want to talk just for a minute or two about how you
21 responded to that?

22
23 Mr. Aoyagi,
24 Well, thank you very much for the opportunity to do so. It was I believe in early June that
25 we were experiencing some significant flooding that occurred. The weather reports
26 continued to indicate that there would be substantially more rain. As we do with most
27 emergencies, as soon as we get some pretty severe weather reports, we pull together
28 our planning team of the Emergency Management Group to help position both
29 personnel and resources. And in fact, during the height of the rainstorm we did activate
30 the Emergency Management Group. Our primary focus then was of course on the
31 streets that constantly and continually flood throughout the county, making sure that life
32 safety issues were addressed, and then to do a prolonged outlook. At that point in time
33 it sounded like the rains were in fact disappearing and that what we would experience
34 would then just be the drainage in many of our water shed areas. We were concerned
35 about the 14 reservoirs that exist in Montgomery County. So we monitored those. At the
36 end of our Emergency Management Group meeting, we did get a report from Park and
37 Planning at Lake Needwood had entered into what we call a stage 2 level. And when
38 we pursued that a little further, it just meant that the water was beginning to rise at a
39 level that according to our standard protocol, they would have to report what we call
40 stage 2. At that point in time, we then deactivated our Emergency Management Group;
41 we kept in place our planning group. We decided that evening that we would revisit all
42 the issues to inspect and make sure that we got information and to also look at some
43 additional flooding that we would anticipate. That evening as we pulled the planning
44 group together fortuitously, we happened simultaneously then to receive a report from



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1 the Park and Planning Police, who had been investigating their dams under their
2 control. And they reported that there was some piping of some water flowing near the
3 base where they hadn't seen it before. And we then requested additional information.
4 We asked that our dam engineers from DEP go on site to help inspect. And we also
5 continued to maintain contact with Park and Planning. As a result of that effort, our
6 planning group initially began to look at what may occur, worst case, and they started
7 developing the appropriate unified command between fire employees to proceed with
8 evacuation if we had to evacuate. The assumption being is we could always demobilize
9 if need be, but it takes time in order to mobilize. Unfortunately, conditions worsened at
10 Lake Needwood. Piping began to continue -- the turbidity of the water was certainly a
11 concern to everybody. It was more turbulent than clear, which meant it wasn't
12 compaction that was occurring, there was actual some undermining. As a result of that,
13 we activated the Emergency Management Group. We continued to monitor to see
14 whether or not the water levels would go down. It happened around midnight. However
15 that based upon all the technical staff located on site that the condition of the dam had
16 reached what we could stage 3, which would mean that it's in imminent danger of
17 collapse. As a result of that, a Public Safety Declaration was made by the County
18 Executive requiring mandatory evacuation of the areas within the water shed. We then
19 proceeded to evacuate through our firing place and our Community Emergency
20 Response Team. I believe we evacuated close to 2100 people within about two hours --
21 two and a half hours. We established one shelter. We were prepared to operate a
22 second shelter. In fact, we opened the second shelter in the Bethesda area. The net
23 result was that about 25% to 30% of the people in the area actually moved to the shelter
24 for the first night. We also had an animal shelter set up as well. We were able to keep
25 that shelter operational for two days. As typically what happens during sheltering, you
26 get a large mass of people who will initially move into the shelter and family and friends
27 or other people where they find other resources, and then the number of people who
28 use the shelter dissipates over time. The reason we kept those shelters open for a
29 period of about two and a half days conditions then improved at the Lake Needwood
30 Dam area. Interestingly enough on that situation, we couldn't get a clear definitive
31 statement from the engineers that safety had passed, and that people, with complete
32 confidence, could return to their homes. We did however negotiate with the Maryland
33 Department of Environment, Dam Safety Group indicating that if we could develop a
34 method of notification of residents that if conditions would worsen that they would
35 immediately move to safety. Then that we could in fact reoccupy the areas. So as a
36 result of that we again worked when we let the people back into their homes, we tried to
37 post on every household a notice to them, both in English and in Spanish, that we're
38 allowing the people to return to their home if they so choose, but if they should hear
39 three blasts of a horn followed by three short blasts and three long blasts, then they
40 should evacuate immediately just to high ground. We positioned fire and police
41 personnel in the community throughout that period of time. And we also maintained all
42 the roads that led into those areas that could potentially flood. We kept those roads
43 closed until we could get a definitive statement that the danger had passed, and that the
44 dam returned into what we call stage 2. And then we monitored the situation thereafter.



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Councilmember Andrews,

Thank you very much for that. The reason I asked you to talk about it a little bit is because it gives an example of what you're doing in response to the type of emergency that is actually the most likely emergency that we will have. Of course the department has engaged with the federal departments and other agencies about planning for a whole range of potential emergencies, including terrorism response. But weather-related events are -- have so far at least been the more likely emergencies that we need to deal with. And I believe this went fairly well. I think the coordination that we saw between the different departments and between the product providers, the Red Cross, and also with Health and Human Services, the Public Health Service, worked very well. It was a quick response to a potentially very dangerous situation. I think the department came out of that having accomplished what it set out to do. And it worked well. Do you have (inaudible) a question about that, or do you want me to go through the budget briefly. It won't take long to do the budget part.

Councilmember Leventhal,

My question is not about Lake Needwood, Mr. Chairman, so please feel free to proceed. I have some general observations about the department.

Councilmember Andrews,

Okay. Very good. All right. This budget is really a same service budget. There's very little change. There's actually a slight decrease in the budget from last year because a number of one-time items are not in this budget that were in the last budget. So the actual budget is a \$60,000 decrease from last year; a decrease of about 1%. The main change in the budget is the addition of security personnel at the Twin Brook Parkway location and Dennis Avenue Health Center. That would be the equivalent of 1.1 work years in the coming years \$71,000 to increase the number of hours where there are security officers at the posts because of issues that have come up at those locations. And then a very small \$10,000 addition for information technology training for members in the Emergency Management Group. There's a \$300,000 increase related to personnel costs, which is what we see in all departments related to increases in salaries and benefits from year to year. And then there are positions that are detailed from other departments. There are now four. There were three. The police has a positioned detailed. Fire and Rescue has a positioned detailed. Department of Technology Services and Department of Public Works and Technology. And -- I'm sorry Public Health. So those are the four. Those are, I would say, the most significant changes in this budget, which is not changing dramatically from last time. When the department was set up, there was discussion about whether it would focus primarily on planning and emergency response to specific emergencies, or whether it would include security personnel. The Council voted to include security personnel in the department, which is the bulk of the department in terms of personnel positions; about six out of every seven positions are security personnel that cover the buildings. So that's the bulk of the budget. And let me see if there are some questions about it.



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Councilmember Leventhal,

Thank you, Madam President, and thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that the County Executive has kept the budget for the Homeland Security Department roughly constant. It's a very small decrease over last year, and I do think that's appropriate. The Chairman referred to the dialogue that happened on the last Council when this department was created. And it was my view at the time, and it remains my view that we were not trying to build an empire. I understood then and perhaps understand now although I feel differently about the logic of the building security guards being combined with our preparedness efforts. I do have some questions about the building security guards, but I want to make an observation first. I know that the County Executive is embarked now on long-term effort at reorganization. He is in charge now and he wants to have a fresh look at the way the departments are organized, and his effort of reorganization will, we understand, affect multiple departments. And I would encourage him to take a look at this one. And I would encourage him to begin with its name. I think that the concept of Homeland Security has been completely discredited, as a result of the bungling of the Bush administration, certainly after Hurricane Katrina and just generally. I think that although in the weeks and months following September 11, 2001, there was a great sense of gap in preparedness and the concept of Homeland Security may have seemed comforting to the public at one time, I just think it is terminology that has completely lost its usefulness, and I think it leaves Montgomery County residents unfortunately to giggle. And I don't think that that's appropriate any longer, and I think we should take a real look at that. I'm not in the word-smithing business. I think preparedness or an office of preparedness is a concept that we need to maintain. I agree with the Chairman's apt observation that weather events are likely to get more extreme and more unpredictable in coming years with the scientific evidence seems to be headed in that direction. I also share the Chairman's commendation of you, Gordon, and also the Parks Department in terms of the response to the Lake Needwood Dam, the potential breach there. I think that that was well handled and appropriately handled given the circumstances and given the amount of information available from moment to moment. I was Council President at the time. I received a number of midnight and wee-hour in the morning phone calls from former Chief Administrative Officer Romer at the time. And generally I thought it was well handled. And although folks need to be awakened in middle of the night, I thought generally it was an appropriate effort by the department. But I think the name needs to be changed. And I think we now need to take another look at this question of whether we need a department or whether we really should simply have an office of preparedness. And finally, I have a couple of questions about our building security personnel. I know they're dedicated people; I appreciate what they do. I'm still a little confused about what they do. And the packet before us doesn't really answer the question satisfactorily. On page 5 of the packet, there's a description -- I wasn't present for the Public Safety Committee discussion, but it's described on page 5 where Councilmember Knapp asked about the difference between using police and security officers to provide security at libraries, and, Gordon, you said that security officers do not have the enforcement authority the police officers have and



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1 must call 911 if there is a serious incident. Now that's a very important observation
2 because later in the budget we understand that the Department of Health and Human
3 Services has requested additional personnel at the Outpatient Addiction Treatment and
4 Dennis Avenue Health Centers because we have some clients who are not in their right
5 mind and who may want to steal drugs. And that's a real concern. And yet I don't -- I
6 think it's appropriate that we have security personnel to address those potential
7 problems, but I don't understand how they are going to address them if they do not have
8 the enforcement authority the police officers have and must call 9-1-1 if there's a
9 serious incident. So I'd like to pause and get an answer to that, and then I'd like to deal
10 with the issue of libraries.

11
12 Mr. Aoyagi,

13 Thank you very much for the question, Mr. Leventhal. And it is appropriate, and perhaps
14 further discussion of the Public Safety Committee with regard to the enforcement
15 authority of a security officer. As a matter of policy, we have decided that our security
16 officers would not be designated special police officers, which would make them -- give
17 them the capability to arrest people on premises.

18
19 Councilmember Leventhal,

20 I'm sorry. May I interrupt you -- would not be given the authority?

21
22 Mr. Aoyagi,

23 Would not be -- they are not -- the only special police officers that we could or may have
24 are the lieutenants. If we choose to engage and move into special police officer
25 designation for each of our security officers, it takes us into a whole other arena of
26 training, physical requirements, and other requirements that we would have to
27 undertake.

28
29 Councilmember Leventhal,

30 So how then do they give comfort at these HHS centers where you have individuals
31 who are posing a threat to the security of the facility and potential theft issues?

32
33 Ms. Aoyagi,

34 Like many other private security firms, what our security officers do is provide a physical
35 presence, a physical deterrence. They're all trained in what we call verbal intervention
36 and crisis reduction to assist as a result with their uniform presence to try to deescalate
37 an incident. If an incident does in fact begin to escalate, though, their immediate
38 response is to try to back off, to try to protect the people, and to call for police for
39 assistance.

40
41 Councilmember Leventhal,

42 Call for police backup. I appreciate the sensitivity of this topic, and it may be that if we
43 pursue it further, we should do it in closed session. But I still have questions. In addition
44 on the issue of disruptive behaviors in libraries, this has come up during the police



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1 budget. It's come up on the Library Department budget. And just to restate what I've
2 said before, I want to make sure that we schedule a joint meeting of HHS and Public
3 Safety to look very broadly, and I hope, Minna, that we can assemble some real data. I
4 would like to get a picture of how serious the problem is. I notice here on circles 22 and
5 23, your response to the committee's questions in which it is stated that the library
6 representative initiates actions, Madam President, under the Disruptive Behavior
7 Ordinance that we had referred to earlier, and that a security officer may be used to
8 enforce disruptive behavior orders. I still find sort of a little bit of contradictory
9 information. Page 5 of the packet says that the enforcement authority -- and again, if we
10 need to do this in closed session, don't reach any issues that obviously you won't. But,
11 you know, on page 5 it says that basically these security guards don't have a lot of
12 teeth. And then on page 23 it says that the security guards do in fact enforce the
13 Disruptive Behavior Ordinance when called upon to do so by library personnel, if I'm
14 understanding this correctly. We don't need to resolve this here. But I'm perplexed. I get
15 the sense that this is a rising problem, although I need to see some statistics to get a
16 picture of how bad the problem is. And I get the sense that we could do a better job of
17 sharing information and clarifying roles here between your department, the police
18 department, and the library department.

19
20 Mr. Aoyagi,

21 And just to very briefly, the police enforce criminal law and have the authority to arrest.
22 The disruptive behavior law merely says they're prevented from coming on premises.
23 So what are those -- .

24
25 Councilmember Leventhal,
26 Disruptive people?

27
28 Mr. Aoyagi,

29 Disruptive people for whom a disruptive order has been approved. If they show up at a
30 county facility, we just do not allow them onto the premises. So a much different
31 enforcement capability; one is to physically detain and arrest and charge, the other is to
32 prevent access to a facility, being our Disruptive Behavior Ordinance. And when I use
33 the terminology that the department representative enforces department policy, what we
34 mean by that is in the case where a librarian, if it's reported that somebody is looking on
35 a computer in a library and it may be inappropriate, that is a department policy with
36 regard to what is viewed on the screen and what isn't viewed on the screen. So it's not
37 the security officer's role to interpret the department policy for the user. We rely upon
38 the department rep to then say our department policy says you must remain quiet or
39 you're not allowed to use this or that. If there is then disruptive behavior as a result of
40 the department representative trying to enforce their policies, then the security officer is
41 present to display a physical presence and to just provide the authority of a uniform. If
42 on the other hand the person becomes so disruptive and there is assault -- a potential
43 assault or something else may occur, then certainly 911 would be the appropriate call to



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1 make. And so there's just a distinction in terms of how the incident escalates, and to
2 extent to which we respond.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,

5 Okay. That does clarify some things. But when we return to this specific issue in greater
6 detail, it does seem to me that there's a significant gap in time between the period of
7 time when police can respond to a 911 call, and that things may happen in a very short
8 period of time. I recall the incident at Little Falls Library where a couple of your
9 personnel perhaps were misguided in taking it upon themselves to enforce what they
10 understood the policy to be regarding offensive material on a computer screen. And I
11 understand what you're saying -- I think I understand correctly that -- and I've actually
12 had -- I consider this a separate matter from the issue of disruptive behavior, but I've
13 had correspondence with Parker Hamilton regarding offensive material on computer
14 screens. And they have a way of dealing with that. But you're saying is that it's the
15 library department personnel who would go to the customer and say whatever that
16 person would say. You know, please don't view this. Other people can see it. Or, this is
17 what Parker told, we have a special fitted screen, or there's another -- if you need to
18 view this material, there's another screen that's not visible and you can do it over there.
19 And you're saying that your personnel would not get involved in that conversation at all,
20 or they would do it if the library personnel says officer I need your help?

21
22 Mr. Aoyagi,

23 They would respond to the department rep who says officer I need your help.

24
25 Councilmember Leventhal,

26 Okay. All right. Okay, well anyway, I've highlighted some issues, Minna, I hope you're
27 taking notes that we can return to later. Because if -- again this is all hypothetical, but
28 that person is viewing the inappropriate material, if that person becomes belligerent and
29 potentially physical, 911 is going to take a while. And I would like to have better
30 information about our response under those circumstances. All of these are connected.
31 I appreciate you giving me the time, Mr. Chairman, to ask these questions.

32
33 Councilmember Andrews,

34 Sure.

35
36 President Praisner,

37 May I piggyback because I think those questions are very relevant from a standpoint of
38 reviewing the policy of the department, which obviously it is related at this point to both
39 Health and Human Services and the Department of Libraries, but also the specific
40 materials that may be posted as to what the expectation for policy is, and then the
41 physical presence of one of our security personnel. I share what I think is my
42 colleague's underlying question of why the requirement for police in the library situation.
43 And yet it's adequate for the security personnel and the Health and Human Services
44 situation. It seems to me that when we're talking about youth and libraries, if we cannot



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1 have our security personnel be able with our library personnel to both implement the law
2 we've passed as far as disruptive behavior and also adequately state what that policy is
3 as far as use of that building and use of the facility, then I think we have a much bigger
4 question and problem. And if that's the case then I think the discussion between Public
5 Safety and HHS is one that I would like to be available to sit in on. Especially since the
6 libraries that have been identified, I think, are problematic all of us if that's the case. And
7 I think there is also a message that needs to be conveyed to parents if that's the root of
8 the problem as youth and -- youth behavior in libraries. So I hope we can have a further
9 conversation about the appropriate personnel, the appropriate behavior, the appropriate
10 response and the education of the public on these issues.

11
12 Councilmember Andrews,

13 We'll set up a joint committee meeting to pursue that after the budget. The other thing I
14 want to mention about this is we did put one item on the recommendation list, and that's
15 \$45,000 to fund the production and mailing of a Family Emergency Preparedness
16 Guide. It's been a while since this was updated. It's important for individuals to know
17 what they need to do to protect themselves and their families in the event of an
18 emergency. In most cases what they need to do would be able to shelter in place in the
19 event of a severe event; again, most likely weather-related as has been the case in the
20 past; electricity for a week or more. And then ready for that so because all of our
21 attentions are short, it's important for us to be reminded -- all us about what we need to
22 do to be ready in an emergency so that emergency personnel don't have to deal with
23 assisting people who can protect themselves and who can help people who cannot. So
24 we did put \$45,000 on the reconciliation list for that purpose, and we plan to come back
25 to the larger issue of how to effectively inform the public broadly about what they need
26 to do to be ready to help themselves.

27
28 President Praisner,

29 I think that's very important. I also think though that evaluating public behavior is -- when
30 an accident occurs folks get very interested in and the attendance at our briefings and
31 meetings is very large. And then I know from the ones I have attended, the further away
32 you get from that event, the fewer and fewer people you see showing up. And so it's not
33 just printing the material, it's making sure people save it and say now where is that
34 when I need it. And they're interested. Unfortunately, human behavior being what it is, I
35 think the discussion of how you keep something in front of someone's mind when
36 they're not focused on it is going to be -- .

37
38 Councilmember Andrews,

39 The greatest challenge to get people to focus when it's been a while since they may
40 have had to take any action.

41
42 President Praisner,

43 One question I had actually, Gordon, is for you. There are -- and I'm familiar with some
44 of them but not all of them; there are tons of national standards and requirements, et



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1 cetera. I think it would be helpful as we spend a lot of time trying to be responsive and
2 have those plans in place that the Council adopted and we reviewed the directives, for
3 us to fully understand which ones are absolutely critical and have some kind of
4 budgetary hook associated with them, and which ones it would be nice to do but not
5 absolutely necessary. And at the same time there are also things at the state level that
6 states have to do, and the question is where it is duplicative and also where are you not
7 involved where you really need to be involved at the state level, not necessarily with the
8 national standards.

9
10 Mr. Aoyagi,

11 Certainly we could provide that in more detail, but just a broad brush. The NIMS
12 requirements certainly as a result of the federal government saying that it will be a
13 condition of future funding becomes probably the item of most concern. Interestingly
14 enough, when we approved the budget -- .

15
16 Councilmember Andrews,

17 Gordon, can you describe what NIMS is for (inaudible).

18
19 Mr. Aoyagi,

20 I'm sorry -- the National Incident Management System, which was adopted through the
21 presidential directive; I believe it was five. And they gave communities, localities and
22 states about three years to begin to comply with the NIMS requirements. We are doing
23 well on the training side, and there are a host of other questions with regard to planning
24 and preparations and resource inventory that we're currently working on. Interestingly
25 enough, when we adopted and presented to Council the supplemental appropriation for
26 what we call the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, which relies upon
27 NFPA 1600. If we comply in substantial part with EMAP, we'll find ourselves in
28 substantial, in fact, we'll be -- we will have met the standards for NIMS (inaudible) -- the
29 NIMS standards.

30
31 Unidentified,

32 Setting the records (inaudible).

33
34 Mr. Aoyagi,

35 I'm sorry. So, yeah. I apologize to everybody. But the compliance -- they all seem to be
36 overlaying, and the argument that NACO -- I'm sorry, the National Association of County
37 Officials and other public entities have presented to the federal government as we do
38 need to have some consistency with regard to how those requirements are impacted
39 (inaudible).

40
41 Councilmember Andrews,

42 We need it ASAP; right?

43
44 Mr. Aoyagi,



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1 Right. Well I apologize for the alphabet soup. It seems to be my life now.

2
3 President Praisner,

4 The alphabet soup is, I guess, what we will have to digest dealing with the federal
5 government. There are some directives to the states that I think we have to keep an eye
6 on, because the state can very easily respond without sharing that information or
7 discussing it with the County. And that would be unfortunate, too. It would be helpful for
8 us to keep an eye on those things. I don't see any other lights, so thank you Mr. Chair.
9 And thank you, Mr. Aoyagi, for your input and for the work that you do. Well now move
10 to Item 5. Before I do, I wanted to tell Councilmembers that I had asked for Item 10.5 to
11 be put on the agenda this afternoon; that's deferral of a one position that the committee
12 had recommended approving, but I had asked some questions about. My questions
13 have been answered and so that item has been deleted. Okay. Item 10.5, the deferred
14 item. And now let's move to Recreation, and ask for the folks from the department to
15 join us at the table and introduce yourselves. Beryl, we're going to start (inaudible).

16
17 Ms. Feinberg,

18 Beryl Feinberg, OMB.

19
20 Ms. Bryant,

21 Jennifer Bryant, OMB.

22
23 President Praisner,

24 Rita or Jeff, introduce yourselves.

25
26 Ms. Howard,

27 Rita Howard.

28
29 Ms. Riley,

30 Robin Riley.

31
32 Mr. Albornoz,

33 Gabe Albornoz.

34
35 Mr. Bourne,

36 Jeff Bourne.

37
38 Ms. Evans,

39 Evie Evans.

40
41 President Praisner,

42 The Planning, House and Economic Development Committee reviewed the Department
43 of Recreation budget and we have some recommendations that relate to modifications
44 to the Executive's budget that appear on page 1. When we discussed the Senior Adult



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1 Mini Trips in FY07, the Council had approved \$81,000 actually to resurrect the Senior
2 Adult Mini Trips because there was some issue about them not being done, with a
3 proviso that the \$81,000 for the trips would be covered by fees. The department
4 reported that this year that the trips turned out to be so expensive by having them
5 revenue neutral, that they had to cancel the trips. The Executive recommended
6 increasing the appropriation by \$70,000 from the \$81,000 to \$151,000, in essence the
7 department and the public would carry -- would reduce the cost of the trips and make
8 them affordable for most seniors. They assumed revenue from fees would still be the
9 \$81,000 but would cover 54% of the cost, rather than 100%. We recommended
10 increasing the appropriation by \$19,000 instead of the \$70,000, so you would decrease
11 the fees but not as much as the committee had -- the department had recommended, so
12 fees would cover 50% of the cost rather than the 100% of the cost, estimated FY08
13 revenue would therefore decrease by \$31,000. In the budget, there was also a
14 recommendation for \$50,000 for a study to explore the possibility of bringing a
15 multipurpose youth center to Montgomery County, much like one that exists in
16 Washington, D.C. There's more material in the packet about that. The committee felt
17 that, at this point they didn't recommend approving a study, because we really need to
18 have a comprehensive conversation about all the youth programs we already have in
19 Montgomery County and the facilities in which we deliver them, whether they be schools
20 after hours or recreation centers, and also the nonprofit community. And given the fact
21 that we are no longer creating recreation centers for age-specific population but building
22 large community centers that accommodate both senior and all age groups that it was
23 awkward for us to be talking about creating a government multipurpose youth center or
24 any multipurpose youth center at this point. Given also the myriad of services being
25 associated or proposed to possibly be included in the center, the thought was that we
26 should have a conversation about the -- where those services are delivered now and if
27 this is the best way to plan on growing the extension and expansion of services in the
28 future. So the committee recommended deleting that \$50,000 as well. The third issue
29 that -- that was unanimous. The last issue was the only issue where the committee we
30 not unanimous in its recommendation. In the city of Gaithersburg there's a senior citizen
31 center and right now hat the point roughly 60% of the users of that center are non-city
32 residents. The '07 budget includes \$100,000 for County payment to compensate the city
33 for the use by non-city residents of the city senior citizen center. The Council receives
34 requests from county residents to increase that payment to the city, and the Executive
35 had recommended adding \$50,000, which would bring it -- the total in FY08 to
36 \$150,000. The city had requested \$200,000 for a total request of \$300,000. Mr. Elrich
37 and I recommended not approving the Executive's \$50,000 increase at this time given
38 the fact that we will be talking about municipal tax duplication and shared services. We
39 believe that this point in time is time to do that evaluation rather than adding those funds
40 at this point. Councilmember Floreen.

41 Councilmember Floreen,

42 Thank you, Madam President. This is one area where we are in complete agreement as
43 we usually are. There -- yeah, we are, yeah. I do think that the issue of Gaithersburg



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1 support for county residents warrants a special arrangement. So the fact that 60% of the
2 users of the senior citizen center in the city of Gaithersburg are non-city residents, I
3 think really weighs kind of heavily in my mind one could slice and dice our relationships
4 with municipalities throughout the county in a variety of ways, but this is a documented
5 relationship and we heard from a number of the users asking us to support the County
6 Executive's request on that. So I wanted to move that \$50,000 at least on the
7 reconciliation list.

8
9 Unidentified,
10 I second that.

11
12 President Praisner,
13 Okay. It's been moved and seconded that we place \$50,000 on the reconciliation list for
14 this item. Councilmember Elrich.

15
16 Councilmember Elrich,
17 I think this belongs in the larger discussion about rebates. First of all, we just went
18 through a discussion during this session about a legislation to move through Annapolis
19 about who uses parks and who should pay for those parks. Friday this Council voted not
20 to use the formulas in the rebate but to allow the municipalities to get the same rebate
21 that they got last year, which was larger, you know, in many cases than they would
22 have received this year had we applied the formulas. And so I don't think it's appropriate
23 to have a discussion about formulas and whether or not the usage should dictate a
24 higher payment absent of broader discussion, which we're currently having about the
25 rebate formulas. And I think this center needs to be part of a discussion about what
26 level of support the County should provide it. And I don't in principle have an objection
27 to providing a higher level of support to services that the County residents take
28 advantage of in municipalities. But I think it needs to be in the context of a broader
29 discussion about which services serve which part of the population and what's fair on
30 both ends and to isolate this one thing when we just said we are not going to use the
31 formula we had on anything else just seems to me to be not appropriate at this time.

32
33 President Praisner,
34 Councilmember Andrews.

35
36 Councilmember Andrews,
37 Thank you, Madam President. I think it's important to look at the history a little bit here
38 in terms of how this developed. The County closed what had been a senior center at
39 Emory Grove, which was serving a lot of county residents. And the city has really
40 helped to accommodate the closure of that facility by making the center available, which
41 it is now, as the letter from Mayor Katz indicated and the other communications we got,
42 and now is serving predominately residents who live outside the city of Gaithersburg. I
43 think the annual cost for operating the center is around \$600,000; I think it's close to
44 that; and why I think the city asked for half of that -- \$300,000 -- given the balance. The



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1 County Executive recommended increasing by \$50,000 to \$150,000 from \$100,000, to
2 make progress, I imagine, towards that. And so I do think that's the context here. It's a
3 very valued center. It needs a lot of work. There's likely a need for a new facility, but in
4 the meantime it's important to make sure this one continues to be available to the
5 people that use it now at least. So while I can -- I appreciate the arguments of my
6 colleagues that there a lot of issues going on regarding the balance of payments
7 between the cities and the County and who should deliver what service, it is really clear
8 that this city facility is providing a big benefit to County residents that we are paying only
9 a fraction of the proportionate for. And this would move us closer but not in any way
10 allocate those costs equally. So I hope that we will put this on the reconciliation list and
11 if it does not come off the list, I hope that we will find a way to address, because I think
12 the city has made a very good case in this instance.

13
14 President Praisner,
15 Councilmember Floreen.

16
17 Councilmember Floreen,
18 Thank you. I just wanted to respond to some comments that were made. We do have a
19 lot of unique relationships with municipalities that occur outside of the formula situation.
20 On Friday, frankly, when we were looking at the formula issue, it was noted that
21 Takoma Park had a special treatment because of its, I think, the fire -- the police, I think
22 had a special payment likewise with respect to its libraries. We have these kinds of
23 issues with the city of Rockville, and I see this as very -- not very different from any of
24 those relationships. Everything needs examination and attention, and we have to make
25 sure that it's fair. But there is no pure mathematical formula in my book, I think, that
26 further respects these unique relationships, and that's why I agree with Mr. Andrews
27 that this is a sort of situation that certainly should be at least singled out for special
28 attention on our -- as we wind down on our budget deliberations.

29
30 President Praisner,
31 Okay, last comment before we vote; Councilmember Elrich.

32
33 Councilmember Elrich,
34 I just don't think the things we discussed no Friday reflected a request for a sudden
35 change in the amount of funding based on a different rationale. They were basically
36 maintaining the existing formulas and guidelines and -- at least the special things you
37 referred to. I'd be more than happy during the course of the year if assuming that the
38 task force finishes its work on municipal rebates and addresses this to look at a
39 supplemental if the County indeed -- if it comes up then the place where it's being
40 severely short-changed, I'd be willing to look at it in that context. But I really would like
41 to see all of these things addressed comprehensively.

42
43 President Praisner,



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1 Okay, the motion before us would add \$50,000 to the reconciliation list for they city of
2 Gaithersburg Senior Citizen Center. All in favor of the motion? Councilmembers Ervin,
3 Floreen, Knapp and Andrews. Those opposed? Councilmembers Elrich, Trachtenberg,
4 and Praisner. The motion carries. Okay, the next item is a reconciliation list item from
5 Councilmember Ervin for \$13,000 for a therapeutic recreation program at Inwood
6 House; absent any objections from Councilmembers, we'll place that on the list, Valerie.
7 I want to go back to the other conversations that the committee had just in general and
8 it relates to the Capital Budget Amendments that we're going to talk about next, and that
9 is our recreation centers that exist and the five smaller neighborhood centers that have
10 some issues associated with them from a standpoint of the conditions of the facilities.
11 And also the process we're about to look at facility planning from a standpoint of
12 whether those facilities, given the size they are, locations, the lot on which they sit, and
13 the communities that they serve as far as numbers; whether they should be expanded
14 in size or not. And that's a process that is well underway as well the question about the
15 programming. And I know there were meetings last week within each of those
16 communities to begin to talk -- to extend the conversations that have already begun
17 about those issues. The Executive's budget includes \$320,000 to enhance the
18 programming and to also some facility improvements that are Operating Budget related;
19 that's things like chairs and tables and equipment and furniture. How that will be spent
20 depends upon that community input, but the committee strongly supported that. In
21 addition, as you know, we're in the process of going through a pilot year of evaluating
22 sports academies at several high schools. The Executive has supported that program
23 as well, and is enhancing the academies because when we introduced them into the
24 budget they were not for a full year. So there are also the funding for those. And there is
25 another year of Rec Extra, which is the program the Council has supported and in
26 essence saved, that is the recreation program After School for middle school students.
27 The committee also did support \$90,000 to strengthen collaboration and communication
28 among Park and Planning, HHS and MCPS. It's more a program information availability.
29 It does create a position to strengthen communication and interaction, including with the
30 nonprofit agencies. And hopefully we can get a briefing on this once we get into the
31 fiscal year, because I think it relates also to this feasibility study that we did not support
32 because the question is program delivery and coordination. The only comment I would
33 make, and I make it with a little bit of concern or hopefulness but yet concern; the
34 County Council several years ago actually under then Council President Leggett
35 created an Early Childhood position that was supposed to strengthen collaboration and
36 planning between the school system and Health and Human Services. And that position
37 was supposed to be able to participate in planning meetings and in decisions, both in
38 the school system and in HHS. Unfortunately, it didn't work. And I think it didn't work
39 because of turf issues and because of individualism, not because it was not the
40 important and right thing to do. It's one thing to have somebody who is responsible for
41 communication, but if that's the only person who is doing that, and there isn't at the
42 leadership levels of the school system and Health and Human Services and Park and
43 Planning and Rec Department and others; if there isn't that leadership commitment and
44 the culture doesn't change, doesn't matter how much money we put in for a position; it's



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1 not going to work. We've got enough on the cutting room floor, so to speak, of past
2 experiences. So that's why I want the committee to be continually briefed about
3 progress and work plan and objectives. And I hope the Collaboration Council will also
4 be a party to that communication. You mentioned nonprofits, but I think of that more as
5 the deliverer of service as opposed to someone who is trying to -- whose whole mission
6 is to pull pieces together and make things happen. I see several lights, so let me start. I
7 think Councilmember Ervin's was first.

8
9 Councilmember Ervin,

10 Thank you, Mrs. Praisner. I really look forward to the committee's conversation with
11 your department on the evaluation that the Collaboration Council is doing on the sports
12 academies. It's something that I'm really interested in. There are some really good
13 models in the County on collaboration between the school system and nonprofits. I think
14 of George B. Thomas right off the top of my head. And I want to ask a question about
15 how the sports academies under your department work with the school system, number
16 one. Follow-up question to that is do these students have to be academically eligible for
17 the program. And the third question is how much are we paying staff? Are they all
18 recreation staff? Are they a combination of recreation staff? School system staff? I just
19 wanted to know a little bit about that, if you could answer those questions.

20
21 Mr. Albornoz,

22 I will work on addressing on the first two. I'm going to defer to my colleague, Rita
23 Howard, and actually Melanie Coffin, the manager of our team, who helps coordinate
24 those relationships with the schools -- is here as well. So if there is anything that I fail to
25 mention or answer, she will be available for follow-up. The relationship with the schools
26 is critical to the success of the program. We have to have not only a strong relationship
27 with the school system as a whole, but a strong relationship with the principal that
28 operates the program. And we have found that there is a direct correlation between our
29 success and the success of our program to the relationship with the principal. So that is
30 a critical component moving forward, and allows us to have access to information;
31 allows us to partner with current and existing programs within the schools; and really it
32 gives us -- helps us get access to the kids during the day to help recruit students so that
33 we can have as many students participate afterwards as possible. So the short answer
34 to your question is the relationships are very important and we are hoping to build upon
35 those moving forward so that we can bring more resources and partner with our
36 nonprofit providers to provide even more of a wraparound model at each one of the
37 facilities. Regarding the second answer to your question, the academic requirement. It's
38 my understanding that there currently actually is no specific academic requirement to
39 participate in the programs, and that is by design so that we can recruit students who
40 may not have the grade point average to participate in other extracurricular activities,
41 and for us to provide a safety net, if you will, of additional programs and services for
42 those students.

43
44 Councilmember Ervin,



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1 I actually think that's a really critical point, because, you know, I served on the school
2 board for a couple years; there were a lot of conversations back and forth about
3 academic ineligibility. And there are many schools -- many of the ones identified in this
4 packet, who have huge ineligibility problems for freshman especially. And so my
5 question actually has -- it dovetails how are you able to do that knowing that the school
6 system has a requirement. And how are you attaching these kids with some sort of
7 supports -- academic supports?

8
9 Ms. Riley,

10 Well each school is a little bit different. And I'll start out by saying that. We are able to
11 accept students that are at or below a 2.0 average because we are not a school system
12 program, so we're not governed by the regulations that -- on the eligibility for
13 extracurricular activities. We're not an official extracurricular activity; we're just a
14 program that comes in and partnership with the school. And so that's how we get
15 around. At several of the models -- the ones at Blair and at Wheaton, we actually --
16 those students that are at or below a 2.0 at Blair are required; at Wheaton because it's a
17 newer thing, they are strongly encouraged. We actually chase down the kids to go to an
18 academic support before they participate in sports. At Spring Brook and Paint Branch
19 where we are partnering with the George B. Thomas Learning Academy, we had a pool
20 of about 200 students that we recruited from and they have about 60 students that are
21 active in their program. And again, if you're enrolled in the George B. Thomas, you must
22 -- and we have a way of checking that -- attend George B. Thomas the academic
23 support first before the sports. At Einstein there is no academic component because the
24 principal at that time did not feel the need to have that. And so we do try to link them.
25 And the academic support looks a little bit different at each school too. Right now we're
26 finishing up the HSA test prep where we've leveraged the resources that the school has
27 put in for HSA test prep, plus additional incentives through the sports academy for
28 attendance, et cetera; and working with about 120 kids that are going in a classroom
29 base for about an hour before they come and play soccer or ping pong or Dance Dance
30 Revolution. I'll go into the third question as far as who is it that we're paying and how
31 much do we pay? We always -- we have one recreation staff person -- recreation
32 specialist -- I got a few of them back there with me today that are assigned to each of
33 the high schools. And then we use part-time staff and we try to hire first from the school
34 -- teachers, pare educators, security personnel from the school as secondary
35 employment. And they are hired with Recreation. We have about half of our staff that
36 are from the school. The teachers of course with academic support a 100% of those are
37 from the school. And I think George B. Thomas would tell you the same thing that the
38 hire again secondary employment for those teachers. And then we fill in the rest with
39 other qualified seasonal staff for recreation assistance at an (inaudible) Essex level.

40
41 Councilmember Ervin,
42 What's Essex?

43
44 Ms. Riley,



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1 Essex runs about 13 -- .

2
3 Councilmember Ervin,
4 (Inaudible) seasonal.

5
6 Ms. Riley,
7 Seasonal, yeah, yeah, yeah. Seasonal staff and there are eight different levels and so
8 the for academic support we are stipending roughly \$25.00 an hour; George B. Thomas
9 is able to put in \$35.00 an hour. But they have a more intensive classroom-based
10 academic support than the other model does.

11
12 President Praisner,
13 And, Councilmember Ervin, that's part of the evaluation that the Collaboration Council is
14 doing is because there are different models, some evaluation of the effectiveness that's
15 why they were pilots -- the different types. And a piece of that is the academic success
16 of the students as well as the behavioral issues that may arise.

17
18 Ms. Riley,
19 Yeah, and also the Collaboration Council is looking at self-reported things like school
20 connectedness, do I feel safe, do I have trusted adults, adverse events, self-reported, in
21 addition to double checking with the school on things like suspensions and expulsions.

22
23 President Praisner,
24 Councilmember Leventhal.

25
26 Councilmember Leventhal,
27 Thank you, Madam President. First of all if there's no objection I'd like to be recorded in
28 favor of adding the Gaithersburg Senior Center payment to the reconciliation list. As a
29 follow onto Councilmember Ervin's question, I don't know if my colleagues have seen --
30 I just saw for the first time this morning a memo dated May 8th from Carole Garvey, the
31 Board Chair of the Collaboration Council, and Kathy Lowlee, the Executive Director, and
32 just reading very briefly from it, the Collaboration Council's inventory of after-school
33 programs will reach us by June 8th. And this information will be organized by service
34 delivery site with data of describing service-type days and hours of operation, and
35 capacity and participant eligibility; and then data can be geo-mapped against population
36 data, which will enable policy-makers, funders and providers to get a sense of gaps in
37 specific communities. They then go on to ask us -- and we'll be discussing this this
38 afternoon to give them back the \$200,000 that we took from them -- we in the Health
39 and Human Services Committee, and place it on the reconciliation list, and we'll have
40 this discussion this afternoon. But they now say that it has to do with evaluation of the
41 quality of the program. That was certainly not clear to us in committee. So there have
42 been a number of items in the budget that have come up that we learn more about here
43 in full Council than in committee (inaudible). My question for you, Gabe, is related to
44 another item like that. And that is the issue that the Library Department had before us



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1 where they were proposing to seek a federal grant, which we didn't understand at the
2 time it came up, and I still don't fully understand it, but the way Parker Hamilton
3 described it was it was a federal grant to assist the libraries to develop programming for
4 youth. And somehow this is thought to help with the problem of unruly or disruptive
5 youth. Now, we took it away. We didn't -- we weren't persuaded. And we didn't like the
6 idea of appropriating money in advance of applying for an as yet unidentified grant. It
7 may be that they were trying to structure a congressional earmark, but in any event the
8 Council decided there wasn't enough to go on and we took it away. But what came up in
9 the course of that discussion, and it really is clearly a crosscutting issue here, is the
10 question of -- well and here's my question to you: are you part of this conversation at
11 all? In other words, the suggestion was that there were youth who were in libraries after
12 school who were not -- who were not pursuing the activities that the library is for. And
13 the discussion played out that, you know, the library's mission is changing and there
14 was some pushback from Council on that that libraries are a place of learning and
15 study, and that we have recreation centers and we have community centers. And if what
16 somebody really wants to do is get exercise or goof around or do things other than
17 study and learn, that maybe a rec center would be a place to do that rather than a
18 library. And the Library Department wasn't happy with that dialogue. Are you aware of
19 any of this? Have you been in conversation with the Library Department about any of
20 these issues?

21
22 Mr. Albornoz,

23 In the context of the youth violence -- anti-violence initiative put forward by the
24 administration that includes the \$6.5 million recommended for funds to increase the
25 intervention, prevention and suppression, I had been very involved in those
26 conversations. And those conversations have surrounded how can we as departments
27 leverage our resources and partner more effectively with other departments that work
28 with youth. So for example, libraries, Health and Human Services, law enforcement,
29 other departments that do work with youth, and particularly at-risk youth, have been in
30 conversations regarding how we can more effectively work together. So that's on the
31 macro-level. On the micro-level, I'm actually pretty excited about this; at a couple of
32 different initiatives -- there have been several incidents involving gangs where libraries
33 and recreation have partnered to work with a specific school or in a surrounding
34 neighborhood around providing some more positive solutions and opportunities for
35 youth. The first I'll mention is at Rockville High School. The principal at Rockville High
36 School began convening meetings two months ago every Wednesday morning at 7:00,
37 and did a really fantastic thing in response to a very terrible situation that happened with
38 eleven students and a stabbing. Many of those students actually were Rockville High
39 School students. Rather than circle wagon, she actually called out for help. And a
40 number of departments, including libraries and recreation, started attending these
41 weekly meetings and convening meetings with staff members that are on the ground
42 working with these kids. And coming up with different concepts and ideas on how we
43 can work more effectively together. One idea that potentially we discussed was libraries



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1 are going to be doing a Dance Dance Revolution series. We already actually have that
2 within our program repertoire.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,
5 I'm sorry. That's the videogame where people shuffle their feet in time to the music?

6
7 Mr. Albornoz,
8 That's right. That's right. (Inaudible).

9
10 Councilmember Leventhal,
11 That's going to take place at the library?

12
13 Mr. Albornoz,
14 They have purchased several pieces to help recruit kids to get kids more active. And we
15 talked about doing partnerships. So potentially we can have a tournament. Potentially
16 we could work effectively together.

17
18 Councilmember Leventhal,
19 Okay, now why is your department not taking a lead on that? That does not sound to
20 me like a library activity. It sounds like a great activity. I'm familiar with the videogame.
21 It's good exercise. I mean, it promotes fitness. Yeah, I've seen (inaudible).

22
23 Unidentified,
24 (Inaudible).

25
26 Councilmember Leventhal,
27 I haven't done it myself.

28
29 President Praisner,
30 I feel a December skit coming up.

31
32 Councilmember Leventhal,
33 Yeah, really. No I mean it promotes fitness. It's a good thing. So why is that not you?
34 Why is that a library (inaudible)?

35
36 Mr. Albornoz,
37 I can't speak specifically on behalf of the libraries regarding why specifically they've
38 chosen that piece of equipment. I do know that we have talked about how we can
39 partner together on providing more opportunities for youth. Another idea that came out
40 of this meeting recently was potentially hosting a coffee house at one of our recreation
41 centers on a Thursday or Friday evening and partnering with the libraries to do a poetry
42 (inaudible), for example. There are other activities that involve library kinds of
43 programming at a recreation center.



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1 Councilmember Leventhal,

2 See I can see poetry slam, but not dance. And I'm serious about this, because what
3 we're all looking for -- there's been a lot of fuzzy-wuzzy language coming over from the
4 Executive Branch on this Youth Violence Prevention initiative. And large dollar amounts
5 with a lack of clarity as to how they are going to spent. And I and I think other
6 Councilmembers are seeking to obviously support productive activities for young
7 people, but we're also seeking clarity. And to the extent that I see, you know, overlap
8 among departments that doesn't make sense to me -- if I don't think it makes sense, I
9 don't want to vote to fund it. And so, I mean, Parker is not here. We can, you know, we'll
10 have this conversation, you know, we're going to have a lot monitoring of the gang
11 activity, but, you know, libraries it seems to me we want to pursue an excellent library
12 mission. And so I'm just confused and perplexed. I don't -- dance is not a library mission
13 in my judgment. And if -- and we that conversation a couple of days ago; well libraries
14 are changing; libraries are evolving; libraries are all things to all people. Well if you try to
15 be everything, you're not really going to do anything very well.

16
17 Mr. Albornoz,

18 Yeah, I understand and respect your comments tremendously. And this issue came up
19 in our PHED Committee hearing as well. And the bottom line is that the coordination of
20 these activities is really on many levels one of the most critical components. And I can
21 tell you that discussions have been ongoing within our departments and we will soon
22 branch out those discussions to talk to other nonprofit providers regarding the
23 coordination. But this coordination is really going to be done on both the macro and
24 micro level, because at the end of the day, it's the organizations and entities that are
25 specifically working with these kids. And the people that are on the ground that need to
26 be talking to each other and from a policy standpoint, we need to be talking to each
27 other to give them the tools and resources that they need to be successful.

28
29 Councilmember Leventhal,

30 Right, you need to be talking to each other, and you need to be clear that not everyone
31 can do everything or should do everything.

32
33 Mr. Albornoz,

34 Understood.

35
36 Councilmember Leventhal,

37 But each department should concentrate on those things it does really well. Okay, my
38 last point is I did get your message and read it and responded to it about the Gilcrest
39 Center. And I just want to highlight for my colleagues that the Gilcrest Center provides
40 an extraordinarily important service, and I hope with the concurrence of the committee
41 Chair that the PHED and HHS committees can take a look. I think we all find it very
42 instructive that of the great diversity of immigrants that go through that center, the
43 Power Point slides that you shared with me, Gabe, show overwhelmingly, I mean, vastly
44 more people are asking for ESOL than anything else; more than health care, more than



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1 food; more than prenatal; more than recreation; more than -- what they want is they
2 want to be able to learn to speak English. And I think that's a critically important fact
3 when we have dialogue with our own constituents about what do these immigrants want
4 and why don't they learn to speak English. The Power Points in terms of the requests
5 there at that center suggest that overwhelmingly what they want from County
6 government is help learning English. But I do still think it's germane to ask the question
7 if we're connecting them to a variety of services whether the rec department is the best
8 place and it's (inaudible) being used. So we'll come back to that. But I appreciated your
9 responsiveness to my question on that.

10
11 President Praisner,
12 Councilmember Elrich.

13
14 Councilmember Elrich,
15 I just want to make the comment that I -- whatever's going in the libraries, we just can't -
16 - we can't put everything under the umbrella of anti-gang activity.

17
18 Unidentified,
19 (Inaudible).

20
21 Councilmember Elrich,
22 Kids do stuff that they are not supposed to do. Every kid that does something they are
23 not supposed to do is not a member of a gang or even a potential member of a gang. I
24 recall my youth and sainthood probably wouldn't be a word that (inaudible) associate
25 with that. However -- thank you. However, I mean, the idea that getting that gangs are
26 the nexus for everything, this is almost like the Homeland Security thing. It's like, you
27 know, everything is homeland security. Kids do stuff that need to be, you know, given
28 guidance as to how to do things correctly. I agree with George that we just ought to very
29 firmly and strongly deal with kids who misbehave. And we ought to talk about this
30 misbehavior, this isn't necessarily gang activity. I don't think the library is the place that
31 gangs would go actually to hang out, from I've heard and talked to, you know, the
32 people around Takoma Park and Langley Park. The gangs are not using libraries as
33 primarily -- more likely to use a recreation center or the park or the woods behind the
34 centers for activities and anything else. So I just would like us to just talk about what we
35 want to do to make the kids behave better, not we're all going to stop them from being
36 gang members by this.

37
38 Mr. Albornoz,
39 I appreciate those comments as well. I do want to point out that there are gang
40 members and this has been identified by law enforcement who are using the libraries
41 and using the internet for MySpace and to update sort of gang activity and those kinds
42 of things. So while they're all over the place, they are actually using the libraries and the
43 internet.



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1 President Praisner,
2 Councilmember Knapp.

3
4 Vice President Knapp,
5 Thank you, Madam President. The more we talk, the more lights go on.

6
7 President Praisner,
8 Yes.

9
10 Vice President Knapp,
11 Just a quick follow-up to Mr. Leventhal's point on the Gilcrest Center and the number of
12 people who want ESOL, because this wasn't clear to me after we did the -- had our
13 conversation with McCall, which we did through the funding of the college. How much --
14 what is the interaction between the Gilcrest Center and McCall as far as the
15 identification of those folks for the waiting list. They've been trying to kind of capture that
16 the broad number of people who are out there requiring the ESOL activities and we
17 want to make sure to capture the right number so we're actually putting the right number
18 in to address that backlog. And so I don't know is that a connection point that's been
19 made?

20
21 Mr. Albornoz,
22 Not to my -- I mean the bottom line is we don't have enough supply to meet demand.
23 And within the facility there are space constraints also that prevent us from being able to
24 provide more sort of classroom space just specifically within Gilcrest. But that is an
25 ongoing issue. They have a waiting list hundreds deep.

26
27 Vice President Knapp,
28 I would urge you to follow up with McCall then or McCall (inaudible), because that's
29 what we've been trying to do. We started last year and try again this year to address at
30 least to the extent they can the backlog that they've identified. And so that if we don't
31 know the full extent of the backlog it's going to be difficult for us to address. So if you
32 can get with them so we can make sure we at least have the right numbers so we know
33 we're making the right amount of progress with folks who needs -- needing English
34 language services. The other piece I wanted -- and this isn't for today specifically -- I've
35 been contacted by a number of folks throughout the up-county apparently there is a
36 conversation that is occurring as it relates to the county's policy as it relates to the
37 number of community centers relative to the number of population. And I know we've
38 had it and it came up a little bit during the discussion of the Shady Grove master plan,
39 but it's not a specific conversation I've had, but people are starting to do math and
40 saying, wait a minute. It looks like we should have more. And I'm not saying that that's
41 right or wrong, I just want to have an understanding of what the policy has been to date
42 and to get some sense as to where things should go relative to broader master plan
43 processes so I can at least begin to have a better dialogue with the folks how represent



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1 and then come back to the committee and to the full Council and to you and have a
2 different conversation all together to have a better understanding.

3
4 President Praisner,

5 That's part of the reason why we wanted to make sure every department had a facility
6 plan or program plan, and that that is PHED through OMB to the facilities functions in
7 Park and Planning as well as in DPWT so that we are more adroit at identifying potential
8 locations for land acquisition if there is a need for land for different programs as well as
9 reviewing the criteria at different times. Councilmember Trachtenberg.

10
11 Councilmember Trachtenberg,

12 Just some brief comments. You know, I know, George, when we were talking about
13 some of these issues in HHS, I was actually one of those people who supported the
14 Berkeley-esk approach, which was to try something innovative in the library. You know,
15 here's my perspective on it because I thought a great deal about it after the discussion.
16 It's an option because it's a good preventive tool. And, you know, there are kids there
17 that enjoy the space that the library provides and it's a way of keeping them away from
18 things like gang activity. I certainly appreciate what Marc said about, you know, a good
19 teenage/adolescent programs are not all revolving around, you know, preventing gang
20 association. And it might be interesting to note here that there was a survey done
21 nationally about three years ago nationally and what it showed is that if you ask kids
22 where they feel safest and most relaxed, clearly the first answer is home. But libraries
23 actually outscore both schools and shopping malls. So that's a really important thing to
24 consider that it's sort of a safe place for kids to go do a little bit of intellectual
25 development, and maybe it might seem a little out of left field, but I actually think given
26 some of the issues that we do have with kids and the fact that there are so very few
27 places for kids to really go, and oftentimes they end up in the malls or in parking lots.
28 You know, it's worth a try. So that was my Berkeley-esk perspective.

29
30 President Praisner,

31 Councilmember Berliner,

32
33 Councilmember Berliner,

34 Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to say to the director I am very grateful that
35 you are in public service. I have a great deal of confidence in your abilities and your
36 commitment, and just real pleased that you're in the position that you are. It is such an
37 important position. I am also gratified by your work with our small neighborhood centers.
38 I know you are paying attention to two that are important to me; one the Clair Barton,
39 and the other Scotland and the Scotland community in particular needs to be paid
40 attention to, and I know you are committed to doing so. And I appreciate that this budget
41 allows you to do so and look forward to your engagement with that community and
42 making the most of what can be done on that site. I know we do have some limitations
43 with respect to what that site can do, but I certainly hope and expect that you will do
44 everything you can on that site to make it all it can be. And I appreciate your



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1 commitment to that. Question for you; we've had an ongoing conversation with respect
2 to the small little matter in Friendship Heights. This little community center that was
3 somewhere between Park and Planning, and we've got people building it and we don't
4 know where it stands and you were to get back to me. What is the current status with
5 respect to the internal conversation as to how we're going to get use of that facility when
6 it is available?

7
8 Mr. Albornoz,

9 I'm going to ask my colleague Jeff Bourne to step in if I miss anything, but we actually
10 held a meeting on Friday morning, which I haven't had a chance to update you on yet,
11 so I'm happy to have this opportunity. But we met with the administration and with Bill
12 Mooney, representing Parks; to talk specifically about the details moving forward and
13 how we can make sure that we are on track to open as the community wants once the
14 facility is ready. At this point we are in the process of negotiating with Parks regarding
15 specifically where the resources are going to come from to be able to pay for the
16 various -- the outfitting of the facility, and Parks has offered to take care of paying for
17 the upfront costs to get all of the equipment and the necessary items in there to get the
18 building started and Recreation would take over the operating moving forward. We have
19 a meeting scheduled with the community and specific association that was -- has been
20 working on this issue for years, to update them on where we stand. But the
21 administration is fully committed to moving forward, and right now we're just trying to
22 figure out where specifically the resources are going to be coming from. But it is moving
23 full speed ahead. And the other aspect of it is we are meeting with a community
24 advisory group in the Friendship Heights neighborhood the last week of May I believe,
25 and we'll be updating them at that point as well. But I was very optimistic and very
26 happy with the result of Friday's meeting. We were able to iron out some details there
27 and want to work with the community on figuring out specifically what kinds of
28 programming models we want to use moving forward.

29
30 Councilmember Berliner,

31 And I appreciate your commitment to making sure that when the facility is otherwise up
32 and running that we will actually have access to this, so talk to me specifically with
33 respect to are we talking FY08 or are we talking in this budget cycle you're going to
34 have the dollars available to do what is necessary in the timeframe that is required?

35
36 Mr. Albornoz,

37 It's my understanding that the building is to be delivered to us during the FY09
38 timeframe.

39
40 Councilmember Berliner,
41 '09?

42
43 Mr. Albornoz,



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'09. So that means we have some time from the administration standpoint to figure out exactly where the resources are going to come from so that we can be prepared in onsite. Typically it's my understanding also that we would hire a staff member approximately 120 days in advance to begin the prep work for everything that needs to be done to get a facility open on time. So it would be FY09.

Councilmember Berliner,
Thank you.

President Praisner,
Councilmember Leventhal.

Councilmember Leventhal,
Well I'm sorry to delay moving onto the next item, but I did want to respond to Ms. Trachtenberg. We want young people to feel safe in the library. We want them in the library.

Councilmember Trachtenberg,
Yeah, I know that.

Councilmember Leventhal,
We want them in the library doing library doing library activities and feeling safe and spending a lot of time and reading and using the internet and checking out videos or DVD's or, you know, CD's, and doing library activities. It should be a place where people feel safe. What my concern is we hear from library patrons that there is a lack of materials, that there is a lack of staff, that there's a lack of resources for library use. And so my concern is that when the library becomes a rec center, when the library expands beyond providing the core functions that people want from the library, other library users suffer and library services suffer. And that's one concern, I mean. So there's no question that we want to encourage young people to be in the library. I never would have suggested we wouldn't. Absolutely we want young people there doing library things.

Councilmember Trachtenberg,
I don't think, George, that was the intent of what I was saying. What I was simply suggesting is that it just seems to me that there are some kids that we could reach in that setting. And, you know, it's been my observation and certainly from the work that I've done with adolescence that many kids go to the library not just because of the reading material, but they actually go to use the internet because many of them don't have access to computers at home. But the other reason that apparently some of them go there is because it's a nice space. And, again, I'm not suggesting at all that that you don't understand that or anyone here doesn't. I was just simply saying from my perspective it's an intellectual haven for children that sometimes kids don't have at home that readily.



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Councilmember Leventhal,

Right. When it's an intellectual haven, that's great. That's exactly what we want. But we also want young people to understand appropriate behaviors in the appropriate time and place. So when it's an intellectual haven, yes. When it's a place to hangout or be disruptive, no, no, no, we don't want them there. No matter whether they like it. No matter whether it's attractive or well lit or whatever. I'm quite clear about this. And I'm concerned that we not bend over backwards to accommodate behavior that is not appropriate because that's where kids want to be and that's what kids want to do. I have two boys and they need a lot of structure. They need to have it explained to them what is appropriate behavior and what is not. And you can only accommodate young people so much in terms of what they want. At some point you have to provide structure and explain to kids what they should want and what we want from them. It has to be both.

President Praisner,

Okay. I see Councilmember Floreen.

Councilmember Floreen,

Yes, thank you. Gabe, Mr. Berliner's questions raised in my mind an area of follow up with respect to the Friendship Heights facility. Did you say that Park and Planning was going to pay for the outfitting for this facility to support the Rec Department needs, or that they were going to get someone else to pay for that?

Mr. Albornoz,

Yeah, it's my understanding at this point that Parks would use money out of program open space or another source to pay for the outfitting of the facility. I'm going to actually defer to Jeff.

Mr. Bourne,

I think the commitment was to provide the furniture, fixtures and equipment for start up of operation. My understanding from the meeting Friday is that they're still examining various sources of that funding.

Councilmember Floreen,

I bet they are.

Mr. Bourne,

One of those sources is POS. They indicated they were not sure that there was a likely candidate at this time, but they are examining where those funds would come from.

Councilmember Floreen,

It's program inner space. Well, we will look -- in fact -- .

President Praisner,



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1 (Inaudible).

2
3 Councilmember Floreen,

4 If I could finish, Mrs. Praisner. Let's bring this back for further conversation about how
5 this gets handled. And it may be that there's some thinking going on that we're not privy
6 to at this point. This project, as I recall, was a gleam in the eye of Park and Planning
7 Department not the Recreation Department. And so how the implementation is handled
8 here is incredibly important because of its implications for some other projects out there
9 that are moving at a slower pace. But the real issues of how you get these things up
10 and running when it's provided by the private sector as a condition of approval is one
11 that at least I'm very concerned about; I think the committee is too. And we want to look
12 at that. So you might give Park and Planning heads up on this. We'll take it up with them
13 as well, how these details are being sorted out and what the expectation is. Thanks.

14
15 President Praisner,

16 As I heard, it was an FY09 issue. So we will have those conversations at some other
17 point. We will have time absent any other comments on the Operating Budget, the
18 Operating Budget stands and let's move.

19
20 Chuck Sherer,
21 Mrs. Praisner?

22
23 President Praisner,
24 Yes.

25
26 Chuck Sherer,
27 Before we move on, could you just clarify you actions on the \$13,000 for Inwood House.

28
29 President Praisner,
30 It's on the reconciliation list.

31
32 Chuck Sherer,
33 Thank you.

34
35 President Praisner,
36 Just like the \$50,000 for the Gaithersburg Senior. The Recreational Capital
37 Improvements Program, Item number 6, is this, as I indicated, and we've all indicated, I
38 think, it's an off-year for the six-year CIP. So what we're talking about in the CIP
39 Amendments are the two budget adjustments. There's a supplemental appropriation in
40 FY07 in the amount of \$1,204,000, which will be used to reimburse ALARF and
41 recommends approval -- the committee recommends approval. And in the rec center at
42 White Oak, there's a shifting of \$1 million in spending from FY08 to FY10. That's a
43 physical capacity issue and makes no change in the opening of the center, and the
44 committee recommends approval; so both of those are approved. And the last item is



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1 the CIP for the County Airpark. Thank you to the Recreation Department. The
2 Montgomery County Airpark -- is there anyone here from the Air Park want to join us at
3 the table. Revenue Authority is requested an amendment to the Montgomery County
4 Airpark project. It's a reduction of funding from the Federal Aviation Administration's
5 Airport Capital Improvements program. So the FAA's contribution is \$13, 464,000; that
6 means that the matches from the Revenue Authority and the State are also reduced, so
7 the project description form that we're approving would authorize the \$6,786,000 for the
8 project. Do you want to introduce yourself, please.

9
10 Mr. Luke,
11 My name is John Luke; I'm the airpark manager.

12
13 President Praisner,
14 Great, thank you, John. Are there any questions? If not, the Revenue Authority Airpark
15 CIP is approved. Thank you. We will be back at 1:30, and as I announced earlier. Item
16 10.5 has been pulled, so we will start with Item 11, Urban Districts. Thank you.

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1 President Praisner,
2 Okay, we're going to begin. I know there are a couple Councilmembers who will be here
3 in a minute, and I think we can begin and invite the representatives from the Urban
4 Districts to join us at the table. And I'll turn this over to the Chair of MFP, Mr. Orlin is
5 here as well. And I have folks from the Regional Service Centers who represent the
6 Urban Districts to introduce themselves. Start with you Natalie?

7
8 Ms. Cantor,
9 Good afternoon. Natalie Cantor from the Wheaton Urban District.

10
11 Mr. Stiff,
12 I'm Gary Stiff with the Silver Spring Urban District.

13
14 Ms. Snead,
15 Deborah Snead with (inaudible) Regional Services Bethesda Urban District.

16
17 Ms. Beck,
18 Mary Beck, OMB.

19
20 Unidentified,
21 (inaudible), OMB.

22
23 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
24 Okay. Well I want to thank all for coming this afternoon to participate. Our Urban
25 Districts clearly are represented as is Bethesda, Silver Spring and Wheaton. And the
26 recommendation from the committee was to go ahead and support the budget of
27 \$6,964,000. I'm going to ask my colleagues to go to Page 2 of the packet, which shows
28 the expenditures. And as you can see from the summary, they are primarily around
29 street-scape maintenance. I also would note that the Executive is not imposing a tax
30 rate change for the Urban District from FY07 through FY08. But there were several
31 other things that the committee discussed which we might want to talk a little bit about
32 here this afternoon. One would be the calculated cost of the baseline services. I know
33 staff is urging that the cost be inflated in time for the preparation of the '09 budget. The
34 other thing I would note from committee conversation was that there was consensus
35 that the next Charter Review Commission might want to consider an amendment that
36 would exempt future limited area property taxes from the FIT calculation. Again that's a



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1 summary of what was discussed in the committee with the recommendation to go
2 ahead and support what was proposed. I note also that at the May 8th worksession that
3 the contribution to the Wheaton Urban District would be increased by \$50,360. And with
4 that I would see if any colleagues have any input before we might have some input from
5 those that are here this afternoon.

6
7 President Praisner,
8 I don't see any questions. The only issue is the issue of the parking lot district
9 contribution to the Urban District. And we made that decision already at the Council
10 session unless, Natalie, you have any concerns here's a chance to lay them out.

11
12 Ms. Cantor,
13 You mean In terms of extending the hours and -- .

14
15 President Praisner,
16 No it was that the Wheaton Parking Lot District Contribution to the Wheaton Urban
17 Districts should be increased by \$50,000.

18
19 Ms. Cantor,
20 No concerns.

21
22 President Praisner,
23 All right then with no objections, that budget stands approved. We now move to the next
24 item which is the Regional Service Centers, and I would ask the other Regional Service
25 Center Directors who are here to join us at the table and, Anise, you want to introduce
26 yourselves?

27
28 Ms. Brown,
29 Anise (inaudible) Brown, East County.

30
31 Ms. Matthews,
32 Good afternoon. Cathy Matthews, Up County Regional Services.

33
34 President Praisner,
35 Okay, and I'll turn it back to the Chair of the committee.

36
37 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
38 After some discussion the committee approves the Executive's recommendations
39 except the \$60,000 allocation for the Germantown Development Manager position.
40 There was some intense conversation about that when we did have our committee
41 discussion and the thought was that we needed to look at that as having a more integral
42 role with the Economic Development issues that exist Up County. I also would note that
43 subsequent to that work session, Councilmember Ervin requested that \$15,000 be
44 added to the reconciliation list for 20 more historical signs in the Silver Spring District.



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1 And I would also note to colleagues that it is indicated in the packet that we did not
2 discuss the Takoma Park Temporary Worker Center, and so there has been a budget
3 adjustment of \$30,000 to reflect that as well. And that's pretty much it.

4
5 President Praisner,
6 Okay. Council Vice President Knapp.

7
8 Vice President Knapp,
9 Thank you, Madam President. I just I thank the Council President because she and I
10 last year added some resources to the Emerging Community Initiative and I'm glad to
11 see those resources stayed. One of the things that I would be interested in looking at as
12 we move forward with that though and this ties to I know some efforts that the Council
13 President has been looking at to have closer coordination between Councilmembers
14 and the Regional Service Centers, which everyone here does a good job at. But the
15 challenge is especially in a specific project how we work together to understand kind of
16 where we are going, and to the extent that we take a little more proactive role in
17 identifying where we spend those resources. I think it would be helpful so we can kind of
18 make sure we get the right folks in the community brought together and get that
19 feedback. And, Cathy, I know the projects listed here are projects that the communities
20 wanted, but to begin to think about proactively how we get people brought together to
21 do that. I will make the plug for the Germantown position, but I think quiet honestly that
22 there are enough activities underway and enough different things that we can probably
23 come up with a way to address it and look forward to work with Cathy to figure out to
24 work on that going forward. Finally, and this doesn't necessarily fit specifically with your
25 budget, but I know as we deal with the Clarksburg Ombudsman whether that position is
26 going to continue; I know there is space in Clarksburg right now, some of which is
27 dedicated community use space. There is question at least as the Executive sent the
28 budget over, that position only continues for a period of time and then goes away. And
29 the community's concern is to what happens with the space; is it continued to be our
30 space since they are using it as community space and just at some point to get some
31 feedback. We don't need to do it today, but just to get some feedback as where that is
32 going to go so we can get some reassurance to the community if that is not going to be
33 community use space, then where will there be some. Thank you.

34
35 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
36 I don't see any -- .

37
38 President Praisner,
39 I wanted to make a comment. I think the biggest frustration that I've had over the last
40 eight years or so has been both the lack of funding for the Regional Service Centers
41 that the Council has had to put in to give you some latitude to be able to deal with some
42 of the elements that help identify an area and make a community a more attractive area,
43 whether it is plants or signs or banners or trash cans. The frustration I have is that
44 doesn't deal with the overall issue which started this whole premise of more funds in



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1 Central Business Districts because they need to be swept more and trash needs to be
2 picked up more and trees need to be maintained and sidewalks looked at on a regular
3 basis. And that may or may not be being done at the level of funding that it needs, but
4 the Emerging Community piece was not about the little dollar amounts to help the
5 community. Those should be there, but the Emerging Community piece was about
6 somewhere between the general neighborhood street sweeping and sidewalk
7 maintenance and the Central Business Districts that these community centers --
8 neighborhood centers needed a little more than was justified by your regular residential
9 neighborhoods, but less than the Central Business Districts. And we're not there. We
10 have not any level of funding in any way, shape, or form that responds to that issue.
11 And we have no way of capturing in a good way what's being done actually year after
12 year in the Central Business District. So I hope that in the next year or two, working with
13 the incoming Council President who shares, I think, my frustration on this, that we can
14 tackle the issue of at least designating it in a way that documents the lack of financial
15 support and also the level of financial support and service support in the Central
16 Business Districts, and we can start to explore ways of perhaps creating a mechanism.
17 We've talked about it any number of times, but we don't seem to be able to get round
18 bases on it. So I'm hoping that we can start to devote some time to this. I think the
19 Executive understands this issue as well because I've had several conversations with
20 him about it. But it actually requires the attention of other department heads I believe.
21 Thank you.

22
23 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
24 I'm going to move on to -- well we're approving what was recommended by the
25 committee.

26
27 President Praisner,
28 Yes, yes, absolutely.

29
30 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
31 Item number 12. And we're going to go to item number 13.

32
33 Unidentified,
34 For clarity, we are adding both the Takoma Park Temporary Worker Center at \$30,000 -
35 - .

36
37 President Praisner,
38 Right, on the reconciliation list.

39
40 Unidentified,
41 And (inaudible) \$50,000 to the reconciliation list.

42
43 President Praisner,
44 Yes.



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1
2 Unidentified,
3 Okay, thank you.

4
5 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
6 Okay and we're going to go to item 13 which is the Rockwell Parking District. And I
7 would ask anyone who is here for that, come join us. Anyone? I don't think anyone is
8 here. Okay. All right.

9
10 Unidentified,
11 It's an OMB.

12
13 President Praisner,
14 OMB, okay. OMB has to be here for everything. And their analyst does such a good job,
15 they should be able to be here and answer any questions we might have.

16
17 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
18 Right, and why don't we go ahead with some introductions as we start the conversation.

19
20 Ms. Beck,
21 Mary Beck, OMB.

22
23 Mr. Mullin,
24 Chris Mullin, OMB.

25
26 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
27 Well, this is something that we had a very spirited conversation around within the MFP
28 Committee. The recommendation of the committee was to approve \$377,000, which is
29 all funding that's requested for the payment in lieu of taxes and the debt service
30 payment as well, and enough to cover reimbursements through the fall of 2007. It was
31 the consensus of the committee that at this time we would provide that funding
32 recognizing that in early FY08 there might be a conversation around this issue once
33 again. Do I see any lights from my colleagues?

34
35 President Praisner,
36 No, no lights.

37
38 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
39 Okay, well then that's another one that's in the hopper and we're going to officially
40 support the recommendation from committee. Moving on to Item 14, which is the Merit
41 System Protection Board.

42
43 President Praisner,
44 Another big budget.



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1
2 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
3 That's right. I'd ask that you go ahead and make an introduction.

4
5 Ms. Vallone,
6 Helen Vallone, OMB.

7
8 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
9 The recommendation from the committee was to go ahead with what was proposed by
10 the Executive. I would note that there was additional conversation about an audit, and
11 the committee recommended postponing it because we believe it would be beneficial for
12 the Council to have more flexibility regarding the scope of the audit. And we wanted
13 some time to be able to define the scope of the audit that would get done. So we had
14 hoped that that would be happening in the next few months, and again we're asking that
15 the Executive's proposal be approved here.

16
17 President Praisner,
18 Fine. I think there also is a question about maybe amendments that in the personnel
19 regulations that we'll have to decide whether the Office Human Resources initiates them
20 and when.

21
22 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
23 Right. Okay.

24
25 President Praisner,
26 Okay.

27
28 Council President Praisner,
29 That takes us to Intergovernmental Relations, and we may be moving so quickly that no
30 one from across the street can be here, but I think you can handle it.

31
32 Unidentified,
33 (inaudible).

34
35 Councilmember Floreen,
36 We think you can do it.

37
38 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
39 All right. There was committee discussion again around the Office of Intergovernmental
40 Relations, and we are supporting what's been proposed as the Operating Budget. There
41 was one change and again it was discussed with the Department of Health and Human
42 Services and we asked that \$60,000 be transferred from the department to the OIR
43 Budget for legislative liaison and services for help on Health and Human Service issues.
44 And that was what was approved by committee and proposed here to the full body.



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1
2 President Praisner,

3 Okay. I don't see any lights so that budget is approved. And we will now move to the
4 Health and Human Services Committee. I had mentioned to the Chair that we might
5 want to do the CIP Amendments first and that way if there are folks who are just here
6 for those items, and then we will move back to the Department of Health and Human
7 Services for the rest of that deliberation. So with that in mind, Mr. Chair.

8
9 Councilmember Leventhal,

10 Thank you, Madam President. The first item then that we will take up is Agenda Item 16.
11 It is the FY07-12 CIP Amendment. There is only one amendment recommended by the
12 County Executive, it is \$500,000 for the project Child Care in Schools. This will create a
13 childcare facility at Takoma Park Elementary School. We approved this but we were
14 concerned at escalating costs within the program, and we want to return when we're not
15 in budget to take a look at overall the reasons why costs are escalating for childcare
16 facilities in schools, and whether there may be alternative approaches to providing the
17 same services. And we also want to consider that issue in connection with the great
18 interest that Councilmembers and School Board members are showing in possible
19 expansion of pre-K services. So we hope to have that conversation in the next few
20 months. But the committee did decide to go along with the Executive's request, and I'll
21 pause for questions or comments if there are any.

22
23 President Praisner,

24 Yes, Councilmember Floreen.

25
26 Councilmember Floreen,

27 Well, I'm glad the committee was struck by that increase because it is quite remarkable.
28 Is it a difference in the kind of construction? Have you had any conversations at all on
29 that score yet?

30
31 Ms. McGuire,

32 I can let OMB speak to this as well, but the explanation that the schools has given is
33 increased cost of construction and inflation.

34
35 Councilmember Floreen,

36 So we'll just assume a 100% increase?

37
38 Ms. McGuire,

39 I think that's one reason why the recommendation to go back and sort of analyze how
40 the estimates are come up with, and how the project is going forward is a good one.

41
42 Councilmember Floreen,

43 Are these freestanding?



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1 President Praisner,
2 No.

3
4 Ms. McGuire,
5 No, they're made as part of -- .

6
7 Councilmember Leventhal,
8 Incorporated when school facility modernizations occur.

9
10 Councilmember Floreen,
11 That's what I thought. So okay. So well you'll be looking into that just generally. It is an
12 amazing number.

13
14 President Praisner,
15 It is a stand alone item in the CIP because HHS or the County provides the funding for
16 it. But I guess the question I have, are there -- I'm not sure how they're bidding it or how
17 it's being done if the school is being modernized, are the schools seeing 100%
18 increases in those sites? So why is the childcare center space, which is basically no
19 different than in early childhood classrooms; why is it showing such a dramatic
20 increase?

21
22
23 Ms. McGuire,
24 And this is exactly the kind of question that we'll need to get out -- (inaudible) --
25 unfortunately there's nobody here from the schools.

26
27 President Praisner,
28 I guess the question is what costs are associated with this project as opposed to the
29 modernization of the school?

30
31 Councilmember Floreen,
32 I guess we are all collectively really interested in the answers.

33
34 Councilmember Leventhal,
35 We will return to this discussion after budget.

36
37 President Praisner,
38 Well, I guess we have to return to it after budget if there is no one from MCPS here
39 maybe because we shifted the item earlier. If they come back and we have some time
40 maybe we can get the answers. I would like to know the specific increases and
41 construction costs for each of those schools to know, you know, what is associated with
42 it. Councilmember Elrich.

43
44 Councilmember Elrich,



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1 What's the programming objective for the childcare centers; in terms of time of day?

2
3 President Praisner,

4 The objective of having the facility was when you're doing a facility to -- when you're
5 constructing or modernizing a facility to accommodate space that has been in the past
6 portables or portables for regular classroom students while the childcare center gets
7 physically located in the school, that's where the whole genesis for the adding space. It
8 predated the kinds of healthcare and health center and other space that is community
9 space that's constructed with the school.

10
11 Councilmember Elrich,

12 Is this all day child care or just preschool?

13
14 President Praisner,

15 Yeah.

16
17 Councilmember Elrich,

18 So why would the school (inaudible) this would be for kids who are in school.

19
20 President Praisner,

21 It's supposed to be.

22
23 Ms. McGuire.

24 And in response -- .

25
26 President Praisner,

27 It could be.

28
29 Ms. McGuire,

30 In response to a Council request a couple years ago the department did work to come
31 up with a way of prioritizing what kinds of areas should receive these. And so another
32 goal of the project is to help increase quality childcare resources in high-need areas.

33
34 Councilmember Elrich,

35 Thank you.

36
37 President Praisner,

38 I don't know the extent to which this money is eligible for state aid. I thought it was
39 Governor Glendenning who added eligibility. This all shows G.O. bonds and County; it
40 doesn't show any state aid eligibility. That might be another thing we want to look at
41 because a health room space or other space is eligible for state aid, I know because I
42 talked the Governor Glendenning into it. Okay. Yes, Vice President Knapp.

43
44 Vice President Knapp,



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1 One other question to put in there, is there any time when this space reverts back to
2 actual school space?

3
4 President Praisner,
5 No. It is dedicated community space for community programming; childcare.

6
7 Ms. McGuire,
8 Just for childcare.

9
10 President Praisner,
11 Well childcare but the whole concept when the Board of Education introduced this in
12 1983 was that there would be -- it wouldn't be a situation where we had at that point
13 where childcare centers were in schools, but then because the school system needed
14 more space they were bumped out and so we were getting significant complaints from
15 the public about not having childcare available because their childcare provider was no
16 longer able to provide childcare.

17
18 Vice President Knapp,
19 Madam President, now that Kate Garvey is here, we took the CIP issue up early
20 because we were trying to accommodate the convenience of some, but I guess, Kate,
21 you were not expecting to take it up so early. Madam President, do you want to repeat
22 your question about the cost escalation?

23
24 President Praisner,
25 The question actually came from Councilmember Floreen as well, and it was the
26 significant increase in costs. Does the school system provide the estimates for the cost
27 and is it done under their contract for the modernization of the school?

28
29 Ms. Garvey,
30 Yes, it is.

31
32 President Praisner,
33 Are they seeing (inaudible) -- .

34
35 Councilmember Leventhal,
36 This is Kate Garvey of the Commission of Children, Youth and Family and the
37 (inaudible) Services Department.

38
39 President Praisner,
40 Thank you. Mr. Leventhal. Are the school system -- is the school system seeing this
41 kind of increase for those school construction projects; that kind of percentage
42 increase?

43
44 Ms. Garvey,



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1 I have not asked them comparatively speaking. But we did raise the issue that we
2 wanted to see what was driving this, and again as part of the packet looking at, is this in
3 tune with costs that you see elsewhere for childcare or structured developments.

4
5 President Praisner,
6 All right.

7
8 Ms. McGuire,
9 Unfortunately, I'm sorry, I'm learning that some of the school individuals who were
10 supposed to be here are actually not going to be able to be here anyway. Is this an item
11 where the Council is able to make a recommendation?

12
13 President Praisner,
14 No, I think -- all we're saying is that there is significant follow-up though I think folks
15 want to look at within the context of the school Capital Budget, because these are
16 schools actually. It is a room or two in the school.

17
18 Vice President Knapp,
19 I was going to propose that since that is first in our schedule tomorrow for the school
20 CIP, perhaps we can just get a question out to Mr. Haus and that can be some way
21 raised tomorrow and we can get some feedback.

22
23 Councilmember Floreen,
24 That would be helpful.

25
26 Vice President Knapp,
27 Okay.

28
29 Councilmember Leventhal,
30 Okay. If there are no other questions or comments that then would conclude Agenda
31 Item 16. Madam President, are there any other lights?

32
33 President Praisner,
34 Yes, I'm sorry. No, no other lights.

35
36 Councilmember Leventhal,
37 Okay, it was the Council President's sense that we should proceed now to Agenda Item
38 17. And we will after that, and this is the cost sharing on certain community grants that
39 had received funding -- most of them had received funding through State Bond Bills. So
40 we will take that up at this time and then go to the remainder of the HHS budget which
41 was left unfinished last week. So Agenda Item 17 is staffed ably by our Council Grants
42 Manager, Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare, we had resolved. This is to refresh my colleagues
43 memory, we passed a resolution earlier in the year governing the grants process. And
44 there are several different items in the grants process this special item are those grants



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1 that match funds received through State Bond Bills. And it was the Council's judgment
2 that those ought not go through the Grants Advisory Group but rather should be
3 reviewed by the Health and Human Services Committee, and they were. And so we'll
4 just go through them one by one beginning on page 3. Each of them may require a little
5 bit of conversation so I will assist my colleagues by pointing out the page we're at in the
6 packet. CHI centers is requesting funds to assist with the completion of renovation of its
7 Hillandale Center on New Hampshire Avenue. The County Executive recommended
8 \$100,000. Now this is not a bond bill but the facility is eligible for a significant amount of
9 state funds and so we treated this grant request similar to the bond bill requests. As
10 you'll see at the middle of page 3, state funding amounted to \$1.6 million for this project.
11 The County has already committed \$340,000. The centers for the handicapped CHI
12 Centers asked for \$400,000 and the County Executive recommended \$100,000. Staff's
13 recommendation and the committee went along with this subject to certain questions
14 which we are going to discuss in a moment. That we place an additional \$400,000 into
15 the budget for a new roof; the committee's view was that since this is a County owned
16 facility, we had a certain responsibility to ensure that it did not unduly deteriorate since it
17 is a County asset. But questions were asked in the committee meeting as to the specific
18 condition of the roof. CHI Centers has responded to that. And if you want to see their
19 response, it was Mr. Berliner who asked the question in the committee meeting; circles
20 2 through 5 contain their response. In summary they say the roof system has been
21 patched over 30 times and conditions include inadequate drainage, rusted scuffers - I
22 think there's a restaurant chain with that -- right -- drain system, and exhaust vents,
23 damaged flashing, deteriorated curves and pitch pockets; basically the roof is in really
24 bad shape. The question was also asked -- .

25
26 President Praisner,
27 You didn't say pickpockets, did you?

28
29 Councilmember Leventhal,
30 The question was also raised in committee as to what has been County policy regarding
31 renovation of County facilities leased by nonprofit organizations. And the answer is that
32 the policy is that the tenant is responsible for renovations, but the practice has been that
33 in many, many cases the County has come up with funds to enable nonprofit
34 organizations to make these renovations. So there is no real straight answer to the
35 question. There is ample precedence should the Council decide to include these funds.
36 And of course these are CIP amendments, so we're not talking about a reconciliation list
37 item. We would need to figure out how this would fit within the CIP at that time. So again
38 the committee's recommendation is for a total of \$500,000 to CHI, and that committee
39 recommendation is now before the Council.

40
41 President Praisner,
42 Two comments: one, I need to recuse myself from any consideration of this item. My
43 husband is on the Board of Directors of CHI. Secondly, as previous Chair of the
44 Management of Fiscal Policy Committee where the closed schools issue rests, we've



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1 had numerous conversations, and I think the committee chair is correct that there are
2 varying degrees -- there is the policy and then there have been approaches that have
3 accommodated other consideration. The real question, and I didn't have a chance to
4 look at this ahead of time. The real question this relates to is the actual lease that is
5 associated with this, and what rent they pay, and whether the rent has any reference to
6 improvements to the building reducing the rent costs or deferring rental costs. And I
7 have a feeling that since CHI has been at Hillandale since the school closed probably,
8 which was the '70s, that that lease probably doesn't make any reference to the new
9 policies -- they are not new but at least the last ten years or so that relates to how rent
10 fluctuates depending upon improvements. So I don't know, Peggy, if you have any more
11 information on that issue.

12
13 Ms. Fitzgerald-Bare,
14 I don't. Mr. Lovell is going to be here at 3:00. I'm sorry I had -- .

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,
17 You made your best guess.

18
19 Ms. Fitzgerald-Bare,
20 (inaudible) to when the Council might end. I'm sure he can answer that question, but I
21 don't know.

22
23 Councilmember Leventhal,
24 Do you want to leave this item open, Madam President?

25
26 President Praisner,
27 Well just in case.

28
29 Councilmember Leventhal,
30 Okay, we'll come back to it later in this afternoon.

31
32 President Praisner,
33 That was a committee question.

34
35 Councilmember Leventhal,
36 Let's keep moving. Let's move on to the next item, Community Support Services. That
37 was not a controversial item. We just went along with the County Executive's
38 recommendation of \$250,000 as a match for the state funding for this project. And that
39 is before the Council for any questions or comments.

40
41 President Praisner,
42 I don't see any lights.

43
44 Councilmember Leventhal,



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1 And if there are none. Similarly, on CSAC facility, the state has committed \$1.6 million
2 for that purpose. The County Executive recommended County funding in this year's CIP
3 \$340,000, and the committee agreed with the County Executive's recommendation.
4 Madam President, you let me know if there are any questions or comments?

5
6 President Praisner,
7 Just keep going; you're on a roll.

8
9 Councilmember Leventhal,
10 With respect to the Easter Seal facility in downtown Silver Spring, the staff's
11 recommendation and committee was persuaded to go along that for Easter Seals we
12 ought simply match the most recent bond bill for this facility. We all support the facility.
13 But we have already contributed quite a bit towards the project including land. The
14 organization has a great deal of money yet to raise and it has many sources of support.
15 The project will not be set back in terms of its construction schedule. And it was staff's
16 recommendation that we identify some savings here and simply match the amount of
17 the state bond bill and the committee agreed. So our recommendation is \$200,000 from
18 the County in FY08.

19
20 President Praisner,
21 Okay, keep going.

22
23 Councilmember Leventhal,
24 Okay. With respect to Metropolitan Washington (inaudible), this was one where we were
25 more sympathetic than the County Executive had been. We had a representative of the
26 organization describe the work that is being done and make a request of -- I'm sorry.
27 We went along with the County Executive on this. No, I'm sorry, we didn't go along with
28 staff. That's why we had a conversation. Staff was -- staff thought we could identify
29 some savings here but the committee was persuaded of the merit of the project and
30 went along with the County Executive's recommendation of \$100,000. Two thirds of the
31 way down on page 7. Next item is the Nonprofit Village. The County Executive
32 recommended \$200,000 for this project. For those who may have been familiar with
33 earlier proposals here, the community foundation and many of our well-known
34 nonprofits in the down county, and particularly around Silver Spring and Takoma Park,
35 had had an interest in this project and the thinking had been that it would likely be
36 located down in that high-need area. In the last few months the project has evolved
37 because of the likely availability of space in Rockville Town Center. And so the Board of
38 Directors has remained the same, and the Nonprofit Village Board is now looking to
39 build its facility at the former Giant Food site just off Rockville Pike. This is a project that
40 has great potential for fostering the development of Human Service organizations. It is
41 not entirely clear right now who the tenants will be since they won't be those Silver
42 Spring organizations that were talking about initially, but there is strong support for it --
43 it's a strong board and the County Executive has recommended \$250,000 for planning.
44 The committee's recommendation was that we proceed with the \$250,000; however, we



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1 had had not received from the city of Rockville any indications of its views on this
2 project. My experience with city of Rockville has been that they are very particular about
3 how and what Town Center looks like and how things are placed there. The city of
4 Rockville has its own view about the courthouse, although many millions of dollars have
5 already been appropriated for it at a specific location. The city of Rockville has
6 expressed views about the placement of the library and the naming of the library, and
7 so wanting to be a good neighbor, it was the committee's view that we ought to ensure
8 that before we make the funding available for planning for this project, that the city of
9 Rockville is copasetic because we would not want to impose upon them something that
10 they would later object to, and we don't have to have the city and county at odds. So,
11 Peggy, have you distributed the language.

12
13 Ms. Fitzgerald-Bare,
14 (inaudible).

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,
17 So Councilmembers have in front of you this -- this was approved in concept by the
18 committee. The committee members have not actually seen this language but it is
19 similar to several other agreements we have been making with CIP items, such as the
20 Birchmere and the Washington Adventist project in Long Branch; that is we agree to
21 fund it but we want to see some assurance from the city of Rockville that the city of
22 Rockville has no objection and in fact might partner with the entity in future and provide
23 some future funding. We are not tying the city of Rockville down to anything other than a
24 simple letter saying we think this project is a good idea; we welcome it in Town Center,
25 and we will consider participating in its funding. It does not pledge them or commit them
26 to funding necessarily. So that language is proposed by me but it is consistent with what
27 the committee had agreed to earlier. So that is now before the Council.

28
29 President Praisner,
30 Okay. Councilmember Elrich.

31
32 Councilmember Elrich,
33 So nothing gets spent until everything is lined up?

34
35 Councilmember Leventhal,
36 Nothing would be spent until the city of Rockville sends a letter to the County Executive
37 stating that the city of Rockville welcomes this project in Town Center and is willing to
38 consider participating in its funding.

39
40 Councilmember Elrich,
41 The only thing that -- I don't know if concern is the right word, but I know that in talking
42 with the folks at (inaudible), one of the uses they talked about for their site was a
43 nonprofit village. And so the question is does the County need to be funding two
44 nonprofit villages?



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Councilmember Leventhal,
Well that's a great question.

Councilmember Elrich,
Would one be enough?

Councilmember Leventhal,
I would suspect the answer is we'll have several if it's successful here in Rockville. The Community Foundation and other organizations have been talking about this concept for a long time, and their hope I believe from their perspective is that this one, this first one, will be such a success that it may be replicated around the community. Now I'm weary, and we are not entering into any future commitment whatsoever. All we are doing here is agreeing to provide \$250,000 one time for planning. Obviously we would want to see whether through this experiment we're fostering new organizations that meet needs that we believe are -- need to be met, and I suspect that all of these organizations will come back to the County for support, as they have for many years. So I think it is likely if this is successful, there would be efforts to replicate it in other locations around the County. This would not be the only nonprofit incubator.

Councilmember Elrich,
I guess in a time when we're trying to deliver services to people, money for planning of villages is not where I prioritize spending the money. Now I can think of a lot of things that we're not going to fund that would actually translate to services to human beings now. And this to me just seems like not consistently with what my priorities are for right now. That's my view.

Councilmember Leventhal,
Okay. We could take to a vote. The committee recommendation is before the Council and if Councilmembers don't support it, we could ask for a show of hands.

President Praisner,
If you just want to have your comments recorded, Councilmember Elrich. We can do that?

Councilmember Elrich,
Unless there is sentiment from others, I would just like my comments recorded that it's just a priority issue.

Councilmember Leventhal,
Sure.

President Praisner,
All right. Let's move on.



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1
2 Councilmember Leventhal,
3 Beryl wanted to comment.

4
5 Ms. Feinberg,
6 Thank you, Mr. Leventhal. I'm assuming I have the same language that I believe Peggy
7 had emailed me. And one of the concerns we have is that this sounds like a conditional
8 appropriation and so I just want to be clear that we would certainly need to be looking at
9 that with the county attorney, and perhaps we can find a different type of language to
10 put on the PDF. I just wanted to make sure that I raised that here.

11
12 Councilmember Leventhal,
13 Okay, let me just congratulate Peggy Fitzgerald-Bare who really has worked hard on
14 this. It is my understanding -- I'm just speaking from how I've been briefed because I'm
15 aware of at least three and there may be others -- CIP items right now that we're
16 proceeding with in this way. And what I understood was the concern about a conditional
17 appropriation was you could not condition an appropriation subject to future action by
18 the County Council. But that we could proceed in this matter subject to circumstances
19 that might yet occur, such as we need more information, we need an acceptable plan,
20 we need a feasibility study. All of these are things -- we did this with the Birchmere, we
21 did this in Long Branch, and we're doing it here. But the Council doesn't have to act.

22
23 Unidentified,
24 (inaudible).

25
26 Councilmember Leventhal,
27 Also -- yeah, right. On the Water's House issue. So we're doing this several times.

28
29 Ms. Feinberg,
30 And I think what we may want to just look at different language on this with you. That's
31 what I'm raising.

32
33 President Praisner,
34 Well, we are not going to adopt the CIP until next week. You have time it seems to me
35 just as there is time to adopt, to create resolutions to review the language. If there is a
36 problem, the Council will have time during that time period to discuss the language to
37 make whatever determinations it wants to about the project itself versus the language or
38 some modification.

39
40 Ms. Feinberg,
41 That's correct.

42
43 President Praisner,
44 Peggy wanted to comment.



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1
2 Ms. Fitzgerald-Bare,

3 I did just want to note that I did consult with Mr. Faden about this language. He felt it
4 was -- met the test, but we certainly can have further conversations before we actually
5 formally approve the budget on the language.
6

7 Councilmember Leventhal,
8 Good.
9

10 Ms. Feinberg,
11 And that was the spirit I wanted to raise it here.
12

13 Councilmember Leventhal,
14 And let me just say the city of Rockville could moot this whole thing if they got us a letter
15 this week. And again let me be clear because I do want my colleagues to understand, I
16 believe that this language is -- I'm offering this in the most collegial and as a partner with
17 the city and with the organization. I think knowing that projects have been set about by
18 other levels of government in the past that the city of Rockville had objections to, I'm
19 simply trying to ensure that there is no objection here. In addition obviously, and I think
20 this speak to Mr. Elrich's point; clearly this experiment is going to require a lot of support
21 from a multiplicity of sources. And I'm hoping certainly they are not going to come back
22 to the County and ask for more that since they see it as part of Rockville Town Center
23 revitalization that perhaps the city of Rockville well as will and may be able to participate
24 in supporting it financially also.
25

26 President Praisner,
27 Okay. I want to associate myself with the comments of councilmember Elrich; not
28 because I'm opposed to this concept but I don't think it is ready for prime time yet. I
29 think we need more analysis of the fiscal implications. When we do the incubators for
30 business, we had more information about the policies and likelihood of how this would
31 operate. I think this is a very good group of individuals but I think our going down the
32 road of creating incubators for nonprofits is a policy question that we have not fully
33 explored, and I would prefer to do so after it's more developed and we know the
34 implications financially and the commitment from any neighborhood developer and city
35 of Rockville. So that would be my preference as well. But I think Councilmember Elrich
36 and I are in the minority. Councilmember Elrich.
37

38 Councilmember Elrich,
39 I just want to add to what you just said. I mean, it seems to me that if nonprofits have a
40 capacity issue, what's the most effective way to deliver the capacity? Is it to construct or
41 rent the building and do the things associated with that, or is it to decide that
42 somewhere within the county HHS we want to have a resource that can help work with
43 boards or work with the management people and help them develop that capacity. I'm



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1 wondering is it the most cost-effective way to deliver capacity to the people who need
2 additional capacity.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,

5 Well, those are excellent questions. We have some history in the last few years. We
6 actually in the grants process last year, we put out an RFP requesting advice for
7 nonprofits. We suggested that one of the grants we would make available would be
8 capacity building for nonprofits. Unfortunately the responses we got to that were -- they
9 didn't amount to much. Ultimately we never awarded it. We just didn't find the responses
10 to be the RFP strong enough to merit the appropriation of the dollars. But I really
11 appreciate, Mr. Elrich, the comments you made at a recent meeting. I thought it was
12 excellently stated where you said that -- and I'm paraphrasing here, I may not be saying
13 it exactly right -- that our goal as a County should not be to build a nonprofit
14 infrastructure; our goal as a county should be to support Human Services. And if we find
15 that nonprofits are the best way to support those Human Services, fine; but the point is
16 to get help to people, not to build in a lot of overhead and develop a lot of nonprofit jobs.
17 That's not what we're about. And I thought that was very well stated. I think it helps to
18 focus on what we are trying to do here. So this is a one-time proposal. And assuming
19 the Council goes along with it, we will continue to watch it and to see if it does provide a
20 good model with the ultimate goal being getting help to people, not fostering a culture of
21 well-meaning, you know, charitable groups.

22
23 President Praisner,

24 Well, that does generate a question for me of whether this would be a center where we
25 would be delivering service or whether it would be a center where we would be
26 supporting nonprofits.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,

29 Yeah. I think it is premature to answer that.

30
31 President Praisner,

32 I think the Community Partnership Office of the Executive Branch should come back to
33 us with a fully blown -- fully developed proposal before we go forward with this. That's
34 just my preference. But as I said, I think Councilmember Elrich and I are in the minority
35 so let's move on.

36
37 Councilmember Leventhal,

38 Sure. Good. Okay, I'm happy to be guided by the will of the Council on this. There a lot
39 of questions that I think remain unanswered about this. But if the Council is -- other than
40 the Council -- .

41
42 President Praisner,

43 I don't see any other.



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1 Councilmember Leventhal,

2 -- President and Mr. Elrich is willing to go along with the committee recommendation,
3 then it is adopted. And so then that takes us to the YMCA in Silver Spring, which begins
4 on page 8 and continues on page 9. This entity was treated as though it was a match
5 for state funds although they did not have state funds. We asked them a number of
6 questions about why now, what's going on. And we got some more information from
7 them. They were concerned that the owner of that property which is the Christ
8 Congregational Church, was going to sell the property and leave them without a
9 headquarters. We asked for more information about that and, Peggy, maybe you can
10 enlighten us about the status of that.

11
12 Ms. Fitzgerald-Bare,

13 There is a response from the church on Circles 8 and 9. I believe that just of the letter
14 from the church indicates that they do wish to sell the property, but they also wish to
15 negotiate a purchase with the Y and have agreed to extend the key provisions of the
16 current lease with the Y until June 30, 2008 which would give additional time for this
17 issue to be further negotiated. It would give time for the Y to request a bond bill in next
18 year's General Assembly. They wouldn't have the funding were they to be awarded, but
19 they would know whether or not they were getting it. They could also request funding
20 next year from the County as well. And so it appears that it would.

21
22 Councilmember Leventhal,
23 (inaudible)

24
25 Ms. Fitzgerald-Bare,
26 (inaudible) recommendation would be okay.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,

29 There are no dire consequences if we come back to this next year. Let me just say on
30 that, we don't know what the Council will be doing next year with respect to grants to
31 nonprofit organizations. The process for giving out the support to nonprofits has been in
32 flux for several years. But each year is something of a guide to the next year, and this
33 year it was clear if you had a clear commitment of state support to be matched, that that
34 gave you a leg up. And so not knowing exactly what next year will look like, but it would
35 certainly be logical if there were a state bond bill or other commitment of state support
36 that the Council would be aware of that and would consider that in some sort of special
37 category, or understand that that had occurred and that there were multiple sources of
38 support for the project. If there is nothing else, then that would conclude the HHS
39 committee's recommendations on the CIP amendment for Cost Sharing Montgomery
40 County Government. Okay. Madam President, shall I proceed to the Operating Budget
41 of the HHS Department?

42
43 President Praisner,



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1 Yes. Please do. And when Mr. Lovell gets here, we can go back to those one or two
2 questions (inaudible) on CHI Centers.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,
5 On CHI Centers. Very good. So now before the Council is last week's agenda Item 2.
6 This is the packet from May 10th. And -- oh, yeah, I had copies made too, but we will
7 distribute them when I get to it.

8
9 Unidentified,
10 Okay.

11
12 Councilmember Leventhal,
13 So if memory serves, we had gotten through Aging and Disability Services, and we
14 were just beginning Public Health Services, which begins on page 25 of the memo.

15
16 Unidentified,
17 I think it CHIP.

18
19 Councilmember Leventhal,
20 No, I don't think we did. Well, I don't think we came to a conclusion on CHIP, did we?
21 No, we started talking about it but we didn't -- it hasn't been resolved. So issue number
22 one is the Community Health Improvement Plan and Councilmembers have had a lot of
23 discussion with each other and with community members about this. The committee's
24 recommendation was to place \$500,000 on the reconciliation list and that remains
25 before the committee although, as the Council President and I both stated, I think the
26 likelihood of that getting funded in the ultimate budget is not -- is zero. So we can
27 proceed simply by going along with the committee's recommendation unless members
28 want to make some changes to it. We had talked about -- we're on page 26 of the
29 memo of May 10. You have to -- are there extra copies for those Councilmembers who
30 may not have it? You have it? Okay. Okay. Mr. Vice President, are there any lights on
31 this item?

32
33 Vice President Knapp,
34 (inaudible).

35
36 Councilmember Leventhal,
37 Okay. If there are not then the committee's recommendations stands. And Director
38 Ahluwalia, maybe you could let us know the status -- the Council President is out
39 momentarily -- of providing us with the briefing on the Certificate of Need process.
40 When -- have we set a date for that yet?

41
42 Ms. Ahluwalia,



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1 Good afternoon. We originally scheduled it for July,. but we understand there is an
2 interest in doing it in June, so we are working on new dates with the State to come
3 back. So we'll be coming back to you with alternative dates for the month of June.

4
5 Councilmember Leventhal,

6 So there remain a lot of questions, and I know a lot of our constituents are contacting us
7 about how we will proceed on this study. I do want to just highlight just before we
8 conclude this item; I've been thinking a lot about this over the last several days and
9 constituents have been talking to me about this. There is a very important question that
10 we need data on regarding health disparities. And that will guide us in our Minority
11 Health initiatives. There is a very important question I think regarding the actual number
12 of the uninsured. I think we need to be guided in the implementation of the Montgomery
13 Cares Program and planning for the Montgomery Cares Program with some real hard
14 statistical analysis of what would our ultimate target be. I don't we have had a real hard
15 number on that. I think it has been based on some pretty loose assumptions. Obviously
16 there is this very contentious discussion about hospital economics and everything we've
17 been talking about; the health of our institutions; the health of Prince Georges; what is
18 the effect of Prince Georges on us, what's the effect of Washington Adventist on
19 everybody else; what if Washington Adventist moves; what if Washington Adventist
20 stays; that whole basket of issues of hospital economics. Those are three things that
21 are front in mind for me right now that I think we really need information about in the
22 next year or so. One of the things as we continue to refine this proposal whether it is
23 one study or multiple studies is what are the things we really need to know now?
24 Because if we don't get a \$500,000 study, and if we break it up into many studies on
25 different topics, we should identify what is the data we really need to have. So those are
26 the three things -- Dr. Tillman, I don't know if you want to come up and react to those
27 things, but it seems to me as I think through this department's challenges, those are
28 three areas where I really feel a critical need for analytical information. And there may
29 be others, and I would like Dr. Tillman's comment if I could get it on those three points.

30
31 Dr. Tillman,

32 It is clear that the -- .

33
34 Unidentified,
35 (inaudible).

36
37 Dr. Tillman,

38 I'm Dr. Ulder Tillman. I'm the County Health Officer and Chief of Public Health Services.
39 Just with regards to the Community Health Improvement Plan, one of the main
40 principles of the Community Health Improvement Plan is to take a closer look at our
41 health disparities as well as the access to care. So that is the main concept. It is
42 intended to be a continuous ongoing process that will build in several iterations over the
43 years. This is not a one-point-in-time study to be done. But it will give us both
44 information on the health status of our community by geography, by racial ethnic



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1 groups, by gender, in terms of what the health status is, and then also in terms of our
2 health care resources and training programs that we do have in the County. That is its
3 core that it is intended to do. Clearly in terms of this issue of health disparities, we do
4 want to have better documentation of what is there. The original scope of services for
5 the CHIP or the Community Health Improvement Plan was really to collect all existing
6 information that we have; not just from HHS but also from our partners and those who
7 would be participating in a steering group so we could get that environmental scan. And
8 then in the following year it was to begin what we call primary data collection in terms of
9 collecting Denovo information that would give us more specifics, if it doesn't exist for our
10 residents, the information on their country of origin, how long they have been in the
11 county or in the U.S., things such as that nature. So, yes, looking at health disparities is
12 a critical issue for it. I did not get all three points that you (inaudible).

13
14 Councilmember Leventhal,
15 How many uninsured people do we have in Montgomery County?

16
17 Dr. Tillman,
18 The last data that we have from that is based from a 2003 extrapolation that we
19 received from the state and from the national government in terms of their estimate of
20 80,000 to 100,000 adults and somewhere in the order of 20,000 children.

21
22 Councilmember Leventhal,
23 So it is very important that we have a better picture -- analytically-based picture of that.

24
25 President Praisner,
26 Can I just interject? I'm curious as to what sources of information were used to come up
27 with that number?

28
29 Dr. Tillman,
30 I would need to give you that information again because I want to get the title correctly,
31 but I know it was something like Consumer -- I would need my epidemiologist to give
32 me that source.

33
34 President Praisner,
35 But is it based on actually data in the County or is it based on assumptions of population
36 and demographics?

37
38 Dr. Tillman,
39 The first estimate that we had that was also around that 80,000 to 100,000 range was
40 actually based only on an extrapolation of state data and what we had received from the
41 Maryland Health Care Commission. There was some further delving into this issue by
42 another group that was done by a different methodology but I would have to come back
43 to you on that.



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1 President Praisner,

2 I would appreciate that because, if I may, Mr. Chair, I just want to make a couple of
3 comments on that issue. The biggest frustration for me has been to have department
4 heads come here year after year and have to give us the best guess estimate of
5 information because our data systems are so inadequate that we may know how many
6 people we served on any given day, but we don't know the relationship to any other
7 programs and we don't, you know, we can't aggregate them to know how many families
8 actually are -- we're double counting or triple counting in that way. And that's one of the
9 reasons why I've been so adamant about getting the kind of technology support for the
10 department to be able to give us true information. And it's the kind of information about
11 folks on waiting lists, et cetera, when we really, in some cases, don't screen until they
12 come off a waiting list, so we don't know whether they're eligible or not. They have self-
13 signed up and self-identified. I think it's very important as we go forward for us to have
14 the best information possible recognizing that it varies from day to day. One birth, one
15 immigration, one relocation can change your information dramatically. But the other
16 piece being that we are not using our GIS system adequately to look at the geography
17 of this as well, so I hope that whatever we do with resource and answering those
18 questions, that we make sure that we're using the best information. And I was very
19 happy to hear you say that this is not -- it is a snapshot but it's an ongoing data
20 collection. It is not one point in time that you keep evaluating and reviewing that
21 information.

22
23 Councilmember Leventhal,

24 Let me make an observation here though because when I hear Dr. Tillman describe
25 this, you would almost think that the Executive Branch actually supported it. But it isn't in
26 the budget. And it is \$500,000. And we aren't going to be able to pay for it. And so in the
27 conversations I've had with the Chief Administrative Officer about this, I want to
28 respectfully and collegially suggest that the Executive Branch does need to speak with
29 one voice at some point because we are hearing different points of view about the
30 scope and the urgency and importance of doing this in the near term. And my view is
31 that we need to assemble data in the very near term. And what I'm trying to do is to
32 narrow down those things that in my judgment we really, really need soon. And I have
33 appreciated Councilmember Trachtenberg's observations as to alternative ways of
34 assembling analytical information. Much on my mind with respect to this exercise is the
35 conversation we had this morning, which we have been having for some years with the
36 Commission for Women. And we'll look forward to the release of their study which is
37 coming out in the next few weeks, which is supposed to paint a picture of economic and
38 employment and social issues affecting more than half of the county's population, which
39 they completed for \$30,000; including quite a bit of volunteer effort. My colleagues will
40 recall, those who will have been here on the Council in prior years, quite a bit of
41 conversation with the Commission on Aging where the Health and Human Services
42 Committee believed that an excellent study could be done for \$150,000. And we ended
43 up debating numbers instead of debating how the study will actually be assembled and
44 what it will contain. I have no idea what we would get for \$500,000 or why we have to



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1 spend \$500,000. What I know is the County Executive has not recommended it and it is
2 not in the budget. I feel a great sense of urgency on the three points that I've identified. I
3 feel a great sense of urgency about this issue of hospital economics. And my suspicion
4 is that after we get this briefing on a Certificate of Need, that my committee will
5 schedule a meeting very rapidly and that we will seek to assemble analytical data on the
6 issue of hospital economics. I also believe that we need to be better guided with respect
7 to minority health initiatives on an analytical basis, and I believe that we need to be
8 better guided with respect to access to the uninsured on an analytical basis. So I'm
9 trying to break this up into bite-sized pieces and I know Councilmember Trachtenberg
10 also has had input as to how perhaps this might be broken into smaller pieces and done
11 in a more economical way.

12
13 President Praisner,
14 Councilmember Elrich.

15
16 Councilmember Elrich,
17 I think these are three distinct bite-sized pieces. I think that on the disparities issue, we
18 really ought to make an effort to work with the universities and some of the health
19 departments to see whether we can bring anybody on board to help construct the study
20 and do some of this work. I think it is really easy to put five -- well -- it's easy to put
21 \$500,000 on the table as a proposal, it is harder to find \$500,000 to fund it. I do think
22 that there are a lot of resources out there that we're not drawing on, and I think we
23 ought to make an effort to draw on those resources first before we decide we're going to
24 pay for this broad study. As far as hospital economics go, I think the Council should
25 benefit again from a resource that's available. We could go to the State Hospital Review
26 Commission and ask them to come down here and make a presentation on the health --
27 the financial health of the various hospitals. As I mentioned in our previous discussion,
28 when I had questions about the health of one hospital and wanted to get a perspective
29 on other hospitals, I spent several -- many hours in the state offices looking at financial
30 data sheets for several institutions, and getting a pretty thorough discussion from the
31 people up there who can provide at that who do this analysis. I mean part of for
32 example the decision when they set the rate of compensated care for different hospitals
33 is based on their evaluation of what -- what's the compensation care load of the different
34 institutions; what are their operating expenses. I mean they look at all of that. And so
35 rather than reinventing the wheel and doing a study, why don't we bring them down here
36 to give us a briefing. And then if we don't feel we've gotten adequate information out of
37 that, maybe we can target things that we want to follow up on. I think that might actually
38 be a useful point to talk about how we look at the effects of the (inaudible). I mean one
39 set of facts of the move is obviously financial, but we're not going to understand that
40 until we understand service areas and what the implications are of services areas. And
41 again this is the State Hospital Commission that draws the service areas and says this
42 hospital is intruding on someone else's service area, or they're within their service area.
43 And again I think we'd benefit from that expertise. It might allow us to sharpen our
44 questions up, and then if you want a study, we can do more of a micro-study that fills in



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1 the gap for what we don't know. But I think there is a lot of information out there and we
2 should make the effort to try to avail ourselves of that information first before we pay
3 somebody who is basically then going to go to the state and pull everybody's financials
4 and analyze what people are already analyzing.

5
6 Councilmember Leventhal,
7 Okay, I can't see the lights.

8
9 Councilmember Elrich,
10 But I don't disagree. I mean I think all the questions you raised are things we should
11 look at. And we should get a better handle on them. I'm just not sure whether putting
12 \$500,000 in the study is the way we should start the process.

13
14 Councilmember Leventhal,
15 Okay, Ms. Trachtenberg.

16
17 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
18 I will be brief. I very much appreciate the comments of both colleagues, and this is
19 something which has really held my interest the first day that I got here for a lot of
20 different reasons. And I feel compelled to repeat something I've said a few times, which
21 is I think doing a comprehensive countywide needs assessment in my mind is distinct
22 and different than doing anything that speaks to the economic vitality of those -- the
23 hospitals that serve us. However, you don't have to convince me, and I suspect my
24 colleagues either around the significance of doing both and I would just like to state very
25 simply again for the record that I think doing this in stages is the thing to do. I think
26 going to a university and getting some of the baseline data immediately would be
27 helpful. It would help us organize the existing data that exists both from the state and
28 the federal records, but in terms of developing a plan for an assessment, you know, I
29 think any kind of academic public health setting could help you do that, but I do see the
30 wisdom once we get to that point to actually go have an outside relationship with a
31 contractor. But I don't think we're there yet. And what I am hopeful we'll be able to do
32 when we have our retreat with HHS is really establish a plan because I think that that's
33 what both Councilmember Elrich and I know our Chair -- Chair Leventhal is looking for.
34 And in my mind part of that plan also has to be the development of an evaluation
35 system, which is really something we don't have. And that speaks to outcome
36 measurements, but it speaks to a range of other issues as well. So what I would
37 respectfully suggest is that, yes, it is premature to make that contribution, that allocation
38 of \$500,000, but I would hope over the course of the next few months that we're able to
39 allocate something; not \$500,000. I actually think we'd be able to establish a
40 relationship with a public health school and probably start getting some of that existing
41 data evaluated, probably pretty quickly within six months to a year. And that won't
42 require a \$500,000 investment. So I'm looking forward to working on this with my
43 colleagues, but I think what we need is a plan -- a scan and a plan.



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1 Councilmember Leventhal,
2 Ms. Ahluwalia.

3
4 Ms. Ahluwalia,
5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple points I wanted to -- .

6
7 President Praisner,
8 Yeah, I'm going to call on you next, Nancy, but she wanted to respond.

9
10 Ms. Ahluwalia,
11 Sorry, just a couple points. We think it is important to separate the CHIP; I think I said
12 that last time -- separate the Health Improvement Plan from the more immediate data
13 needs that you're stating over here. And we will be coming back through the County
14 Exec's budget and (inaudible) 409, requesting the dollars to do the CHIP and to stay on
15 schedule to repeat the CHIP on some regular interval, because it does need to be
16 ongoing and it is important. It's something Dr. Tillman does feel very passionately about.
17 Having said that, I also just wanted to tell that you our conversations with the state
18 about coming down here; we've talked both with the Health Care Commission and the
19 Hospital Cost Review Commission to both come -- for both of them to come and give
20 you a debriefing so that you can have a conversation both about the CON process, but
21 also what kind of date the Cost Review Commission has in doing their assessments and
22 evaluations around the uncompensated care rates in and around the financial health of
23 the hospital. So I just wanted to put that out there so you knew that we were having both
24 of those commissions to come down here to do the briefing in the month of June. Thank
25 you.

26
27 President Praisner,
28 Councilmember Floreen.

29
30 Councilmember Floreen,
31 Thank you. I just wanted to support what the chair of the committee said about the need
32 to address the Certificate of Need issue directly. And, you know, I don't know -- I'm sure
33 there's lots of information we can acquire, lots of studies that can be done, but we know
34 that we have a timeframe that we are going to have to be prepared for, and if we're
35 going to take -- you think that this will come to the Council in a briefing format in June or
36 July?

37
38 President Praisner,
39 In June. It is scheduled for June.

40
41 Councilmember Floreen,
42 I think we're going to need to be prepared to move rather quickly, because we can know
43 that there is information is there but assembling it and helping -- thinking through the
44 issues on behalf of the County is going to be, I think, should be a priority for us because



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1 otherwise we may be extremely exposed. I don't know. But we need to understand that.
2 So I support what you've said, George, and I look forward to a little more -- the focus on
3 the different levels of concern that exist out there. Larger plan fine, but I think is a
4 discreet effort that we to need to prioritize as we've said now in a couple conversations.
5 And I'm not sure perhaps by that point the County Executive will have a view as to the
6 nature of his involvement in all of this. But I think certainly from our perspective we will
7 want to be in the game. So I look forward to hearing about that and moving forward on
8 whatever it takes to put us in a position to respond to what we were told the other day,
9 is what a five-month public hearing process.

10
11 President Praisner,

12 I think the information from the COM, the Cost Review Commission, about the COM,
13 and also how they -- how they do rate regulation in the state of Maryland will be very
14 helpful to the Council to understand what you can know about the financial conditions of
15 hospitals, but also how quickly that financial condition can be modified based on things
16 that happen at the federal level, or things that happen in health care. And things -- and
17 how annually their rates are reviewed as well. So I think that would be helpful because it
18 will shape what I think are the discreet questions that we may have associated with both
19 the Certificate of Need request. Remember though that there is a schedule for that as
20 Councilmember Floreen indicated. There also are comments by others that we will want
21 to review that isn't necessarily our own comments but the comments of others. And
22 those won't be filed for some time. So getting that information is more an evaluation of
23 other documents that are filed on record.

24
25 Councilmember Leventhal,
26 Okay.

27
28 President Praisner,
29 Okay.

30
31 Councilmember Leventhal,

32 So that's the end of issue number 1. I don't personally see a need to modify the
33 committee's recommendation, but we all understand those funds probably won't end up
34 in the final budget, but we also all understand that we may look at other approaches as
35 the year progresses. Okay issue number 2 at the top of page 27. We're into the
36 Montgomery Cares Program now. This just in -- I'm going to circulate a memo to my
37 colleagues. A lot of hard questions have been asked regarding the spend-out rate and
38 our ability to see the number of patients that we had hoped we would be able to see,
39 and I'm going to say that this is good news. I don't feel entirely good about it, but I'm
40 going to say that it's good news, Madam President. It appears that the department now
41 believes that it has \$743,040 in additional dollars that it doesn't think it can spend on
42 patient reimbursement -- per capita reimbursement to clinics. And I'm going to -- let me
43 just very briefly talk about some of the issues here in Montgomery Cares, and then we
44 will let the department explain how this information was derived. As I think I've said



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1 previously, I can't remember how -- I don't think we got very deep in this before, but
2 clearly Montgomery Cares is a program that doesn't exist anywhere else. So it's not
3 something that we can just simply replicate from some other community. And we're
4 learning as we go. We're doing an extraordinary job of serving what we anticipate -- how
5 many people are we going to serve this year, Dr. Tillman? The numbers keep changing.

6
7 Dr. Tillman,
8 13,500.

9
10 Councilmember Leventhal,
11 13,500 uninsured poor people are going to get access to a doctor and, if they need it,
12 are going to access to free prescription drugs in Montgomery County in the current
13 fiscal year. That's something in which we should take great pride. That's something that
14 other communities are not doing successfully. So I do want to emphasize the successes
15 of this program even as the HHS Committee is seeking to get a clearer picture of its
16 implementation and it's governments . It is a new program. We can't replicate an
17 existing model. We had hoped to serve more people this year than we are going to end
18 up serving, but we're serving one heck of a lot of people. So let's focus on the positive
19 here. However, because we had questions about how the advice from the Montgomery
20 Cares Advisory Board is being integrated into decision making because we -- and also
21 the important constituents including the hospitals who participate in this program have
22 not been entirely clear about who is making the decisions for the program; we have
23 successful outside nonprofit organization created by Montgomery County -- the Primary
24 Care Coalition, which is implementing the program, and yet there has been some lack
25 of clarity about whether the Primary Care Coalition is making the key decisions, whether
26 the department is making the key decisions. I know that Dr. Tillman and Director
27 Ahluwalia want to reassure us that the department is making the key decisions, and
28 they'll have the chance to reassure us because the committee is basically restricting the
29 program to no more than \$7 million until we can get from the department a very detailed
30 plan which is described on pages 28 and 29. So what the committee recommended --
31 we'll get to the savings in a minute. I'm sorry I'm jumping around; it is sort of a moving
32 target here. In order to get a better understanding of how the program is being run, who
33 is running it, and how it is implemented, I call my colleague's attention to the issues
34 addressed on pages 28 and 29. So we are recommending restriction on appropriations.
35 The total amount recommended by the committee was \$12.17105 -- \$12 million and
36 some change with a requirement that no later than October 15th, the HHS Department
37 must provide a written report to the Council -- and I will not read the entire thing. It is
38 contained on pages 28 and 29, but it includes a clear and detailed explanation of the
39 government structure; a description for the process for deciding how funds are allocated
40 and spent; an accounting by fiscal year for each year of the program since its inception;
41 a description of the specific steps the department has taken or plans to take to make
42 sure that it is consistent with its initial intent; and a strategic plan for planning and
43 implementation to very importantly to include a proposal to address the facility
44 infrastructure needs. The most critical problem facing the program right now is lack of



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1 clinic space. We had hoped by now to serve 17,000 people. We're going to serve more
2 than 13,000. We hoped next year to be able to serve more, and we're going to start only
3 a few more. And the reason again is a shortage of clinic space. We have to get from the
4 department with the input of the Policy Advisory Board, a facilities plan that will map out
5 for us where we're going to go in the next few years and what is it going to cost. I've
6 been following this program very closely. I had believed when we first got the proposal
7 from the Luen Group and the department massaged that back in 2003 and 2004 -- that
8 we already had a facilities plan. But it appears we don't. So we are trying to get a handle
9 from the department on exactly how this is going to work. I acknowledge and the
10 committee acknowledges that we're devoting a great deal of money to something that is
11 new and untried, and under those circumstances it is very important that we stay in very
12 close contact and we are very, very clear about our implementation. And that's what the
13 committee is trying to do. The committee is trying to get out in front of the concerns that
14 I know exist among colleagues that we seem to have a lack of definition here, we seem
15 to have a lack of clarity here. I share those concerns and that's why, with thanks to
16 Karen Orlansky, we are proposing this directive to the committee -- to the department,
17 excuse me, that the department may not spend more than \$7 million unless and until it
18 gets back to us with a very clear explanation of the long-term plan. Now -- and I'm
19 almost done. I know there are probably a lot of lights on this.

20
21 President Praisner,
22 No, actually none yet.

23
24 Councilmember Leventhal,
25 Okay.

26
27 President Praisner,
28 I want to talk but that's okay.

29
30 Councilmember Leventhal,
31 I know we'll be surprised to learn that Mrs. Praisner has something to say.

32
33 President Praisner,
34 When you're Council President, you can have your light on.

35
36 Unidentified,
37 It's a beacon in the night.

38
39 Councilmember Leventhal,
40 So I'm going to go ahead and say this here publicly. You know, I've asked the
41 department not to surprise me and they surprised me today. And so we learned that the
42 capacity to serve patients in FY08 is even less than what the department had been
43 telling me just a few months ago. So again I want to describe this as good news,
44 Madam President. It looks like we got just about \$750,000 that my recommendation will



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1 be. I'm speaking only for myself because the committee has not conferred because I
2 just learned this an hour ago, that I think we can offer up on the reconciliation list. I hope
3 that all resources that are appropriated to Montgomery Cares will be devoted to patient
4 care. It is a very high priority for all of the reasons that we have been discussing. Our
5 hospitals can't continue to survive if they, all by themselves, must meet primary care
6 through emergency rooms; if they have to be the front lines for all of this uninsured care.
7 We believe in this model of treating people before their condition becomes an
8 emergency. We believe in the approach of seeing people in low cost clinics as opposed
9 to high cost emergency room care. We're moving towards the model. We're achieving
10 great success but we're not entirely clear on our targets and so, although the County
11 Executive thought we could spend \$12.26 million and the committee thought that we
12 could spend \$12.17 million, I think we are now at a place where -- somebody can do the
13 math -- but I think we are going to end up spending \$12.05 million, something like that.
14 And so just to close, I would like to stick with the committee's recommendations with the
15 caveat that there is an additional -- where's my memo -- just under \$750,000 available
16 to put to the reconciliation list, but the committee's recommendation was that we -- the
17 committee's recommendation was that we reduce budget by \$250,000 and later we'll
18 discuss the committee's priority for that spending; that we transfer an additional
19 \$50,000, and on page 27, from Montgomery Cares to Community Grants NDA to
20 support mobile meds request to equip, retrofit and modify clinic sites and administrative
21 offices; and then used \$516,000, which the department believes it can spend for a
22 combination of clinic infrastructure improvements and expansion of pilot programs The
23 committee also recommended that the department used \$50,000 from the facilities
24 funds -- I'm sorry from the clinic funds available within the Montgomery Cares budget to
25 support mobile meds volunteer coordinator grant request. We also recommended a
26 transferal of \$25,000 from the community grants NDA in the County Executive's budget
27 to fund the Korean Community Service Centers Clinic Partnership Grant request. And
28 that future grant funding requests from Montgomery Cares providers be submitted
29 directly to the Montgomery Cares Program and evaluated by the Montgomery Cares
30 Policy Advisory Board, as actually did occur this year. So those are the
31 recommendations of the committee.

32
33 President Praisner,

34 Okay. All right. There are a few lights. But before we get to the lights, I just want to say
35 that I have watched the Health and Human Services Committee work through these
36 issues and I know it is a moving target as far as how many patients the clinics can
37 provide. But I would much rather be in the situation we're in dealing with this issue of
38 clinics, using clinics head on and dealing with it and having the complexities of how
39 many patients you serve and the creativity with the pharmaceuticals as well, than in
40 situations of other jurisdictions with tremendous financial infrastructure challenges that
41 go beyond these issues. So I think it is actually a success story that continues to evolve.
42 And I think, Mr. Chairman, you should feel very proud of the leadership role that you've
43 played in this initiative. I think there are going to be jurisdictions that are going to be
44 looking to us with this model. And we can feel good about the department in the



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1 nonprofits and the clinics and the broad community working with the committee on
2 these issues. So thank you for your leadership.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,
5 Thank you, Madam President.

6
7 President Praisner,
8 Councilmember Berliner.

9
10 Councilmember Berliner,
11 Madam President, without losing my right to the floor, I was wondering if we shouldn't
12 hear from the administration with respect to anything they want to share with us before
13 we get too far into our own deliberations. I would rather hear that first if I could.

14
15 Ms. Ahluwalia,
16 Thank you. I do want to apologize to Chairman Leventhal. With this (inaudible) work,
17 you know, at the last full Council hearing that we had on Thursday, we got the distinct
18 impression that there was a sense that we had to go back and scrub our numbers one
19 more time, one more time, and we did. We went back and did that. And we worked
20 actually right through yesterday and it was late as I explained. It was very late last night
21 that I actually got clearance from the second floor on the numbers that we were now
22 proposing. It is a moving target. We apologize for the -- in the time that I've been here,
23 I've been here two and a half months. In the time I've been here I have spent inordinate
24 amounts of time in Montgomery Cares and looking at different numbers and targets,
25 and we scrubbed it and scrubbing it and keep scrubbing it again. In our defense the only
26 thing I can say is that we continue to work with a number of entities upon whom we rely
27 on data. And as best as we can, we keep making projections and looking at numbers
28 and reworking those projections. It was my call yesterday and I said that to the
29 Chairman as well, I wanted to be sure that if as we were in possession of a set of
30 (inaudible) that we're going to adjust the forecast that we share this immediately. And I
31 do apologize for the lateness. It was not intentional but it was the way the whole thing
32 shook out. The way we feel that this is -- these are reasonable. We've said that before,
33 but we do believe that these are reasonable. The infrastructure -- the preliminary
34 infrastructure conversations we have had with the clinics and with the Primary Care
35 Coalition lead us to believe that these numbers are doable with the kinds of investments
36 that we will propose. We welcome the provisions that are being introduced in the letter
37 to the County Administrator. We believe that those -- we can respond to those and we
38 can respond to them reasonably by the dates set for us. And that we will come back
39 with more firm plans and data as requested by you to give us a better handle on where
40 we are. The governance issue keeps coming up over and over again. And there are
41 many entities in the mix. And we also need to have a conversation about what is the
42 role of an Advisory Board; what is the role of government; what's the role of advocates;
43 and what's the role of Council and this entire conversation. And we hope to engage in
44 those. There is very significant policy questions that we need to struggle with in the



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1 upcoming months. We recognize what those questions are. We've identified them. And
2 we are completely prepared to have those tough discussions. So I think we will continue
3 to have a very involved and extensive conversation on Montgomery Cares through
4 summer and fall. We look forward to that engagement. And hopefully it will keep -- I
5 think the level of scrutiny in Montgomery Cares has made it a very high priority for the
6 department. And I want to assure everybody on Council that has not changed. We
7 remain deeply committed. We do have a certain amount of pride in doing something
8 very innovative and important for our citizens. So I do apologize for the lateness, but
9 these facts were scrubbed and scrubbed and scrubbed. I mean we've had staff working
10 long hours to try to get us to this point. So that's where we are. Thank you.

11
12 Councilmember Berliner,

13 Thank you. If I could, Madam President. One, let me say I think it is probably
14 (inaudible), I certainly believe it is a national disgrace that we are unable to provide
15 adequate health care for our people. And add my own personal regard to the Chairman
16 for his commitment, his passion, and his leadership on having the Montgomery County
17 take a leadership role in this effort. It is terrific. And it is also true as we've seen
18 evidence here today that this is an organization, this is a commitment that is
19 experiencing great growing pains. And I for one am grateful for your candor in sharing
20 with us the hard facts as they come to your attention as opposed to holding them back.
21 So very important. And the result is that we're going to be able to have approximately
22 \$800,000 more in savings than we had previously projected. And this too is good news
23 particularly in this budget year. I had -- want to call my colleagues' attention to an issue
24 that is unresolved and that I had intended to make a motion with respect to. But in light
25 of the new development with respect to the dollars that we will be able to save and shall
26 we say the evolving nature of our budget conversations; I would like to, with the
27 President's indulgence, defer final action but simply highlight what was going to be the
28 conversation and just put it on hold until we see whether it is necessary. Because I think
29 there is a legitimate question as to whether or not the dollars that are still in this budget
30 should be retained by Montgomery Cares at this point in time. And I am referring
31 specifically to the \$816,000, if you will, going back to the discovery of \$1.3 million in
32 lower pharmacy costs; that we make again another savings that we found very late in
33 the game. It was brought to our attention. And out of that \$1.3 million in savings, the
34 committee made what I believe to be a correct policy call to increase our payment to
35 physicians. This was a good thing to do -- over half a million dollars. Leaving us
36 approximately a balance of \$816,000 that was in the form of savings; totally unrelated to
37 the infrastructure that was otherwise presented in the County Executive's budget and to
38 grow Montgomery Cares. The question is: is it appropriate to leave those dollars in
39 Montgomery Cares because in a very quick period of time there was an idea as to how
40 that money could be spent; ideas that weren't part of the Advisory Board's formal
41 processes. They could very well be good ideas in terms of building infrastructure; but it
42 could also be that it is not the time to spend these dollars, not the time to appropriate
43 these dollars to the organization given the under-spending that has taken place in the
44 past. So for example if we were to take out \$500,000 that's still in, we would still be, I



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1 believe, showing an increase in this effort by over 17% over last year's numbers. Well,
2 I've been wrong before. But I believe I have a chart that demonstrates that some place,
3 that if we took the full \$816,000 out, we have the -- .
4

5 Councilmember Leventhal,

6 Well it depends on where you start from. We appropriated \$10 million in FY07. Okay.
7 Based on what we're presenting now and including the \$743,000, we're at \$11.4. That's
8 an increase of \$1.4 million.
9

10 Councilmember Berliner,

11 I grant you that I -- it was not taken into account the full -- it is 700. That throws all my
12 numbers off. But in any event, I think there is a legitimate question as to whether or not
13 these dollars can be appropriately expended by the organization at this moment in time.
14 I won't press it because again our budget situation is evolving on a daily -- on an hourly
15 -- on a minute by minute everybody is looking at their palm pilot to see okay did we find
16 more money. There is no sense in -- no sense in -- I haven't done so well. That's why I
17 want to reserve this. But I would like to reserve it for another 24 hours to 48 hours if I
18 could -- 24 hours. And that way we can make this conversation a lot easier I believe.
19

20 President Praisner,

21 And in the interim, I think it would be very helpful for us to have a piece of paper that
22 goes through the puts and takes so everybody is clear exactly what we're talking about
23 because the numbers have changed. And we're talking about FY07 revenue or
24 assumptions about FY07 and how much you have expended in this current year that
25 also builds on your projections for the coming year. And it affects both years. One is a
26 reduction in the necessary appropriations for the coming year; the other is revenue
27 that's available for this coming year. So it would be helpful for us and the extent to which
28 the Executive has already used that revenue, and the extent to which the committee is
29 making recommendations that reallocate funds from Montgomery Cares to other pieces
30 within Montgomery Cares based on their assumptions of reductions and expenditures
31 for the patient piece. So we need to look at that maybe on one sheet of paper just so
32 everybody fully understands and so to the extent Councilmember Berliner is interested
33 in making a motion tomorrow, we know what that might be as it relates to all of these
34 puts and takes. Okay, Karen?
35

36 Ms. Orlansky,

37 Sure. I just want to double-check. You want it from FY07 budgeted or FY07 projected
38 expense in terms of a comparison. They are two very different numbers.
39

40 President Praisner,

41 Both. If you can show us both.
42

43 Ms. Orlansky,

44 Okay, thank you.



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1
2 President Praisner,
3 Okay. George, back to you.

4
5 Councilmember Leventhal,
6 Back to me. Okay, well I do want to -- for those who are following along here.

7
8 President Praisner,
9 I'm sorry. Councilmember Knapp.

10
11 Councilmember Leventhal,
12 Go ahead. I'll yield to the Vice President.

13
14 Vice President Knapp,
15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too just wanted to express my appreciation to the Chair for
16 his efforts and advocacy for this program. Clearly there is no stronger advocate for our
17 under-served populations in the County in general, and I appreciate that. I appreciate
18 his willingness to have a discussion on this issue but really (inaudible) that the
19 committee is going to forward with as far as requirements and recommendations as to
20 how resources are allocated and what the criteria and benchmarks are going to be. I'm
21 also very appreciative of the department for looking at what the pieces are that you
22 really need to do to implement next year. I think it gives us a stronger foundation from
23 which to move forward so I appreciate that. And I would only urge that as capacity
24 expands or increases, as I know you hope to do over the course of the coming year,
25 that you are not reluctant to share that information with us and make sure that the
26 committee is aware and to come back if we think that there is a way for us to serve
27 more of our under-served population. Because I think that's where everybody on this
28 side of the table wants to get us to with the appropriate capacity and place to do that.
29 And so I thank you for your efforts but I thank the Chair for his leadership on this and
30 look forward to where the coming months will take us. And because -- I'm excited
31 because I think this is a very exciting program as the president just said, I think lots of
32 folks are going to be looking to this to show how to reach out to address what is clearly
33 a crisis and no one has figured out how to address the health care issues in our country.
34 But delivery of primary care I think is certainly a strong way to show how to get there
35 and it is not going to solve every problem, but it certainly gets us a long way down the
36 road. And so I thank you for that.

37
38 Councilmember Leventhal,
39 Great. Thanks to the Vice President. Let me just make a quick comment for those who
40 have been following the conversation here. We just heard from Dr. Tillman earlier with
41 respect to the CHIP that we believe there are 80,000 to 100,000 uninsured people in
42 Montgomery County. And so when we hear this number of we now project 17,520
43 people will be served by the program in FY08. You might think the short fall is really,
44 really large. This is an important concept. Again, we need a study to base it on hard



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1 analytical data, but our assumption all along has been that only one out of two
2 uninsured people will seek care if it is offered to them. The other one is either too young
3 or too drug addicted or too out of it or believes that he or she doesn't need help, and so
4 the target initially for the Montgomery Cares Program was 40,000 patients to be served.
5 And that target is advancing forward into the further distance each year. We had hoped
6 that we would be serving 40,000 patients by fiscal 2010. We're not going to achieve
7 that, but the goal is not to serve 80,000 to 100,000 patients. The goal is to serve half
8 that universe.

9
10 President Praisner,

11 Okay. Would now, before we get to the Minority Health Initiative if we're done with the
12 Montgomery Cares, be a good time to ask Allen Lovell who is here to come up so that
13 we could finish that issue.

14
15 Councilmember Leventhal,

16 Sure that's fine.

17
18 President Praisner,

19 And the issue again relates to Item 17, which is the cost share CIP and the state match
20 and is related to the centers -- CHI Centers' request and the committee's
21 recommendation for the additional funding. And the question, Alan, I think related to the
22 -- we have acknowledged that other county-owned facilities where the private sector is
23 using them basically closed schools that there have been these lease arrangements
24 where the responsibility is the tenant to provide the repairs; that there are a number of
25 examples where the County has stepped in. The comment that I made in that process in
26 addition to recusing myself from the vote because of my husband's membership on the
27 board as you know, was that in many of these cases it also relates to the lease and how
28 much one pays is relative to the condition and also the decrease in the rent is
29 associated with improvements that are made. But the assumptions there are
30 improvements that are made by the tenant not by the county. Your lease is one of the
31 oldest ones since Hillandale was closed in the '70's, as I recall. I don't know the
32 relationship in your lease to rent. Will this modernization of the roof improvement or any
33 of those affect the rent that you will pay?

34
35 Mr. Lovell,

36 I definitely want to thank you, Madam Chairman, for your support and the other
37 members of the County Council. Let me say that when the County Council a number of
38 years ago look at lease arrangements between the private sector and the County, they
39 kind of changed the process. And in that process, private organizations who receive
40 funds from either the County or the state or the federal government is no longer allowed
41 a rent abatement.

42
43 President Praisner,

44 Okay.



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1
2 Mr. Lovell,

3 So the funds that we would receive from Montgomery County and the \$1.6 million that
4 we will receive from the State of Maryland will not change our rent agreement.
5

6 President Praisner,

7 Unlike if you and the private sector had done your own improvement then there might
8 have been a rate.
9

10 Mr. Lovell,

11 If I had been able to receive \$500,000 from a foundation, then I could have applied for a
12 rent abatement. And the way that works is over the course of the terms of the lease, it is
13 based on a formula that has been (inaudible). And let me just tell you one other thing
14 that has to happen with this renovation project. And that is that because we have
15 received funds from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and not through the
16 state bond funds, we will need to go back to the County to receive an extension to our
17 current lease to make it a 30-year lease, and we will have to go back to the Director of
18 the Department of Finance and file a right of recovery.
19

20 President Praisner,

21 Okay. I see no other lights. I think those were the only questions. We had already gone
22 through the packet, but because you came at the time we were supposed to discuss
23 this, we wanted to hold that item. The item has been approved.
24

25 Councilmember Leventhal,
26 Right, for the \$500,000.
27

28 President Praisner,

29 For the \$500,000 has been approved. Thank you, Alan.
30

31 Councilmember Leventhal,

32 Thank you all very much. We appreciate the good work you do, Mr. Lovell.
33

34 President Praisner,

35 Okay, Let's go back to issue number 3 on page 35, I believe.
36

37 Councilmember Leventhal,

38 We are on the Minority Health Initiatives, and the committee concurred with the County
39 Executive's recommendation. We are looking forward to the answers from the
40 department to the questions which are detailed at the top of page 35. Let me just say,
41 as I said earlier, I think we need more solid analytical basis for the planning with each of
42 these three initiatives. I hope that at some point relatively soon we can assemble an
43 analytically based approach to this. Providing \$100,000 each to three very different
44 initiatives in a single year suggests convenience rather than hard analytical thinking. But



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1 in any event, we didn't have any better approach so we went along with the County
2 Executive's recommendations for this year; and those being a total of \$3.65 million with
3 the allocation to the three programs laid out in the table at the bottom of page 35. Any
4 questions or comments on that -- on the Minority Health Initiative?

5
6 President Praisner,
7 Councilmember Floreen.

8
9 Councilmember Floreen,
10 Well, I just had some questions about these insofar as we're adding significant dollars to
11 the programs, and as I recall -- well as the chart on the bottom of page 36 indicates, the
12 programs do not appear to be ready to make the expenditures that have been assumed
13 this year.

14
15 Councilmember Leventhal,
16 Yes.

17
18 Councilmember Floreen,
19 So I was wondering about what kinds of conversations have gone on?

20
21 Councilmember Leventhal,
22 Well I have spoken with the department about that, and Dr. Tillman or Director
23 Ahluwalia, you can speak to it. I'm assured that they have some contracts now in place
24 that must be fulfilled and that will end up spending the remainder of their budgets in
25 FY07. Obviously there is still one quarter left in FY07, and the initiatives -- each of them
26 have made commitments that will lead to the spending of that money.

27
28 Councilmember Floreen,
29 Well if someone could speak to that -- .

30
31 Councilmember Leventhal,
32 Ms. Ahluwalia or Dr. Tillman, do you want?

33
34 Councilmember Floreen,
35 One initiative has only spent 13% of what was appropriated for this year, and so I
36 wondered why we would at this point -- adding more dollars to a program that is very
37 important -- critical to the community, but needs some time to get up and running
38 apparently.

39
40 Dr. Tillman,
41 This is Dr. Tillman. I would like to also draw your attention to the direction that was
42 given us when this was heard on the 24th of April to respond to these questions in
43 writing within eight weeks time; and we will do so. I will also say -- .



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1 Councilmember Floreen,
2 All right, but we are doing the budget now.

3
4 Dr. Tillman,
5 I understand. I will also say that we did scrutinize our Minority Health Program and
6 initiatives in terms of their spending and they do have encumbered contracts; they have
7 products that are due in the month of June. Those will be coming in. There was only
8 one program in particular that they estimate there will be about \$75,000 on unspent in
9 this fiscal year because of delays in getting a contract late.

10
11 Unidentified,
12 For all three?

13
14 Dr. Tillman,
15 No, for one -- The Asian American Health Initiative.

16
17 Council President Praisner,
18 Well that group has spent \$500,000 since the report? Is that what you're saying?

19
20 Dr. Tillman,
21 I'm sorry; what?

22
23 President Praisner,
24 You say they will have everything but \$75,000 spent?

25
26 Dr. Tillman,
27 That is the estimate that is coming from our Asian American Health Initiative that there
28 will be about \$75,000 unspent of their allocated funds due to a late contract. The others
29 have assured us repeatedly that they will be spending -- .

30
31 President Praisner,
32 Which means they've spent \$500,000 since the last review or committee. (inaudible).

33
34 Dr. Tillman,
35 Will -- will have spent.

36
37 Councilmember Floreen,
38 Excuse me, but that particular initiative had spent \$80,000 as of April 2007, according to
39 the staff report. Is that incorrect?

40
41 Dr. Tillman,
42 In terms of what is available on the report, that is how much has been paid at this point
43 in time. What I'm trying to say is they have contracts outstanding with products due in



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1 the months of June that they will be paying. And therefore they will be paying all but
2 about \$75,000.

3
4 Ms. Ahluwalia,
5 But with the figure of \$80,996 does not reflect is the encumbrances.

6
7 Dr. Tillman,
8 Right, that's actual.

9
10 Ms. Ahluwalia,
11 And that's the actual expenditure. And there are deliverables that are coming due on
12 June 30th as a result of studies or evaluations or research projects, which is the evolved
13 projected that what their actual level of expenditure is going to be at the end of the fiscal
14 year.

15
16 Councilmember Floreen,
17 Well, I would really ask that this be looked at very carefully from our support material
18 there that's attached on Circle 116. A lot of this is not for services as far as I could tell.
19 Which was of some -- should be of some concern it would seem to the department. I
20 don't claim to be any expert in any of this, but it would certainly warrant our dollars to be
21 spent on as much direct service to the public as can reasonably be expected.

22
23 Councilmember Leventhal,
24 May I comment on that? Not so much on these three initiatives, Ms. Floreen. These
25 three initiatives -- although I am first in line to urge the department to provide greater
26 solidity and concreteness and clarity about the data on which we are basing the
27 guidance to these three initiatives. These three initiatives are not actually in the direct
28 service business unlike Montgomery Cares and unlike some other programs. What
29 these initiatives seek to do is to address health disparities through a variety of culturally
30 appropriate mechanisms, including community education is a huge piece of what all
31 three of these things were intended to do. So these don't fund doctor-seen patients.
32 Montgomery Cares does that. Other programs do that. These fund efforts to enlighten
33 the community, raise awareness, improve, you know, preventive activities, all kind of
34 things that are not actually direct patient services.

35
36 Councilmember Floreen,
37 Well I can see that, Mr. Chairman. I guess I can see that more in some programs than
38 in others. And that is my concern that I would sure hope the committee and the
39 department are keeping a close eye on particularly when these initiatives haven't been -
40 - have taken a good long time to get up and running this year. Clearly, some reporting
41 on it and some evidence of how the dollars are going to be spent to your satisfaction, I
42 think is going to be key. It's one thing to continue to fund these things when they are
43 pushing the expenditure limit; it's another thing to fund these things when they are not
44 even close and without any track record to have an opportunity to evaluate.



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1
2 Dr. Tillman,

3 If I may state just for an example, our African American Health Program has two
4 evaluations undergoing. And those reports are due in June.

5
6 Councilmember Floreen,

7 They have quite an impressive list of initiatives here. I can see that. It is a little harder to
8 see it on some of the other areas.

9
10 Councilmember Leventhal,

11 Okay, well we appreciate your suggestions and the committee is going to continue to
12 monitor this.

13
14 Council President Praisner,

15 Do you want to comment or respond?

16
17 Dr. Tillman,

18 Well, the other point that I would like to make is that these three groups have started at
19 different times. So our Asian American Health Initiative is actually the newest group so
20 that they are really only in, I think their second or third year of their initiative. Yes, they
21 do have the least amount of money.

22
23 Councilmember Leventhal,

24 The department says they're going to spend the money. I have to believe what the
25 department is telling me. I don't have any other basis than the facts that I get from the
26 department. Although these numbers came back and said they had spent only 14% of
27 their budget for the year; you've just heard from the department that they are going to
28 spend the rest of it except for \$75,000 before the end of the fiscal year. I don't have any
29 choice but to believe what I'm being told.

30
31 Councilmember Floreen,

32 None of us do, but I would be remiss if I didn't ask you to keep an eye on this very
33 closely.

34
35 Dr. Tillman,

36 We do.

37
38 Councilmember Floreen,

39 We have competing needs in this area. And we want to make sure that they are well
40 positioned to use the money in a productive fashion.

41
42 Dr. Tillman,

43 Of course.



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1 Councilmember Leventhal,

2 Thank you. As I said earlier, what we need is an analytical approach, because I don't
3 think we have solid data to tell us what the health disparities are in Montgomery County
4 for the multiplicity of Asian American communities. I don't think we are basing the
5 planning for the Asian American Health Initiative in particular on solid data, and that's a
6 cause for concern, and that's why we need to assemble these studies we were talking
7 about earlier.

8
9 Ms. Ahluwalia,

10 Just thoughts about the three initiatives are very aware of some of the concerns that
11 have been expressed because they were expressed in committee as well. They have
12 expressed a clear desire to be more data focused. Some of them already are, as you
13 saw; some are more mature than others. But they are working together now as they
14 have never done before. They are actually all three of the initiatives, the chairs and the
15 advisory committees are having many more conversations and linkages and trying to
16 become more focused around the data issue. And we will continue to support them in
17 every way possible to get to the outcomes that both you stated and they have set for
18 themselves as goals. So we think it is in a good place right now. We will watch it too.

19
20 President Praisner,

21 Councilmember Knapp and then Councilmember Trachtenberg.

22
23 Vice President Knapp,

24 Thank you. I appreciate the questions that my colleagues just asked. The one thing I
25 was struck by is we got -- I think I received all three mailings as kind of the annual
26 reports as to the status or progress of each of these initiatives, and they are lovely. But I
27 kind of questioned the amount of money being spent on those relative to the actual -- I
28 was happy to get it, but I'm not sure I'm necessarily the target audience. I was curious
29 how much money we actually spent doing that especially looking at how much money
30 that we have spent altogether. I was just intrigued by the amount of money that must
31 have cost to produce, to distribute, and then relative to the actual reaching out to the
32 population we're trying to address. And so when you report back, I'd just be curious to
33 see of the annual reports that we received, how much money was spent on that relative
34 to the delivery of information to the appropriate communities because it was nice and it
35 was well and good. But we don't need to see, you could probably give us a two-page
36 piece of paper and it would be sufficient and use those resources to continue to find
37 materials to reach out to the communities.

38
39 President Praisner,

40 Councilmember Trachtenberg.

41
42 Councilmember Trachtenberg,

43 We certainly have had conversations about this within the committee, and I know it has
44 been pointed out here by others that an important factor to consider is the that the



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1 initiatives have all started at different times and obviously they are all in different parts of
2 their evolution so to speak. But, you know, I actually have met with each of the
3 initiatives trying to get some sense of how they started and where they thought they
4 were in terms of where they wanted to go. And it sounded to me like there were some
5 growing pains still for the two newer ones, but it also sounded to me like they were
6 moving in the right direction. They are now having regular communications which they
7 didn't have going back a year or two ago. In other words, they are meeting and they are
8 sharing experiences and goals. And, you know, I think another thing to remember here
9 is that in some ways, especially for the Latino Initiative and Asian Initiative, they are a
10 little bit hampered in the sense that they don't really have data. I think that has been a
11 big problem for them or at least that's what they have expressed to me. So I'm feeling
12 that A - they are moving in the right directions and that B - if they have regular
13 interaction with the department that they will get there. In other words, I'm inclined to
14 make the investment at this point and just see where it takes us. But I'm feeling
15 optimistic from what I heard from all three initiatives.

16
17 Dr. Tillman,

18 I would also like to mention that all three of the program and initiatives are linked with
19 academic institutions for helping them with their research, with their data collection. So
20 that is something that is admirable in terms of where there are going and what they are
21 doing.

22
23 President Praisner,

24 I was just looking based on Councilmember Floreen's comments at Circle 114. And I'm
25 very familiar with the People's Community Baptist Church efforts especially at the
26 Regional Service Center. But it did seem to me as I looked at the FY07 budgeted
27 amount and the FY07 year-to-date actuals and then the projected expenditures that
28 unless -- and the budget for the coming year, that unless you have a situation of the
29 actuals are based on April data, then unless you have contracts in this area as well as
30 with the Asian, you've got under operating expenses line a budget of \$248,000 where
31 we have only spent \$117,000 to date with very little time left in the year and a projected
32 budget for next year of almost \$270,000. That's a significant increase when I'm not sure
33 how they are going to end the year. And it is in an area of grant writing and postage and
34 printing and conferences and meetings. First of all, it seems like a significant amount of
35 money in that category, but I do think we need to continue to work on the issues that my
36 colleagues have raised already in relationship to all three of the initiatives to make sure
37 that we have a clearer understanding of the focus for the programs, and a clearer
38 understanding of the outcomes and the distribution of revenues. When the infant
39 mortality activities are associated here with home visits, are they based on similar home
40 visit concepts that we have in other home visit programs in the county government? Are
41 these done by people but are they similar to the goals and expectations from the home
42 visits that we have with the other home visit programs?

43
44 Dr. Tillman,



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1 These are nurse case managers who do make those home visits. And it is prenatal as
2 well as post natal; and they do follow closely the guidelines of our Healthy Start
3 Program, and they work very closely with our Healthy Start as well as with their fetal
4 infant mortality.

5
6 President Praisner,
7 So the Montgomery Baby initiatives of the hospital screenings when it's a post natal not
8 a prenatal case is similar to what the outcomes and expectations of that program.

9
10 Dr. Tillman,
11 And I cannot speak directly to that program. I can speak to the Healthy Start Program
12 that they follow closely in terms of those state guidelines.

13
14 President Praisner,
15 I'd like to be assured that no matter what home-visit program we're using that the
16 materials and outcomes are coordinated in particular within the department with the
17 department umbrella; whether it's a county provided or clinic provided, or African
18 American Initiative provided effort, it all should be, I would think, somewhat consistent
19 as to the outcomes and the materials being used. Obviously recognizing the need with
20 the cultural competencies issues associated with these three programs especially.

21
22 Dr. Tillman,
23 And actually all of those programs to come together in a community-action team and
24 fetal infant mortality review board group and they're all represented there and they
25 discuss what are the best practices and what are the recommendations.

26
27 President Praisner,
28 Okay, I see no other lights. So, Mr. Chair, we can move on.

29
30 Councilmember Leventhal,
31 Great. Okay, I think the director and the health officer have heard loud and clear that the
32 Council is going to watching the spend-out rate here very carefully, and if at the of FY07
33 we find that there are hundreds of thousands of dollars of unspent dollars as it certainly
34 appears that there might well be, we'd want to know that right away and we'd want to
35 incorporate that into our planning for FY09. It is not -- we don't spend this money to be
36 thought of as supporters of these various communities just to spend the money, and I've
37 been concerned for years that we're guiding this expenditure of dollars in health care in
38 these three areas as much out of a desire to show that we care as much as to really do
39 anything. So if the money is being appropriated and it's not being spent, we shouldn't be
40 appropriating it and we need to know that right away. And I don't want to find out, you
41 know, late in the or at the beginning of the fourth quarter if -- I want to know right away.
42 If we haven't spent this money, I want to know it and I want to factor that into our
43 planning for next year. Women's Health Services. Women's Health Services -- the
44 largest chunk of Women's Health Services goes to the maternity partnership, which is



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1 another program that addresses the substantial amount of uncompensated care that
2 has to be provided at our healthcare institutions. The largest participate in the program
3 is Holy Cross Hospital and we really need to acknowledge the extraordinary amount of
4 resources of its own that Holy Cross Hospital has put into making sure that healthy
5 babies are delivered and that prenatal care is available. Recently the Adventist
6 Healthcare System has also stepped up to the plate and we are grateful to it for its
7 participation in the maternity partnership. We continue to hope that our other healthcare
8 institutions in the county -- Montgomery General and Suburban -- will begin to
9 participate in this program; as yet they have not done so. We also know that teen
10 pregnancy is on the rise, especially in the Latino community. We are going to be
11 focusing on that. We're going to be scheduling a joint meeting of the HHS and
12 education committees. We want at that time to learn more bought services available.
13 We understand the Teen Connection Health Center does provide some assistance in
14 that regard. We understand that there are also some services available through
15 Planned Parenthood, but we are going to be taking a very close look in the coming
16 months at the -- at how well we are doing at communicating to these young women
17 about pregnancy. So that is going to continue to be an issue of interest to the
18 committee. The County Executive's recommendation was \$5.6 million for Women's
19 Health Services, and the committee went along with that recommendation. If there are
20 no lights we will proceed.

21
22 President Praisner,
23 No lights.

24
25 Councilmember Leventhal,
26 To dental services -- we also are going to take a close look at these programs. We have
27 essentially taken over the services that were previously provided by the Volunteer
28 Dental Clinic, and at the same time we have a pilot program for dental services for the
29 uninsured through Montgomery Cares. Over the long time or not too long perhaps in the
30 relatively near term, we're going to want to have a single program for providing dental
31 services to the needy. Right now we still have two different programs. There are
32 reasons we do that because we were taking over a program that existed before at the
33 same time as we were experimenting with a new program, but the committee is going to
34 want to make sure that at some point we have just a single method of delivery of these
35 services. The County Executive recommended \$2,238,996. I am sorry that -- I'm sorry I
36 am confused. Oh, because it also contains some money in the Women's Health
37 Services Program and the HIV and STD Prevention and Treatment programs.
38 Obviously patients with HIV need to be treated in particular facilities, so there is a
39 separate program for that. So it's a combination of \$2,238,996 recommended by the
40 County Executive, and the committee agreed with that total for -- specifically for dental
41 services at \$1.8 million. Are there any questions or comments on that? I can't see the
42 lights, so I need to check in with you.

43
44 President Praisner,



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1 No. You're okay.

2
3 Councilmember Leventhal,

4 For Tuberculosis Services the Executive recommend \$2.05 million, including hiring an
5 additional community health nurse to do case management and outreach with our
6 immigrant population. We are seeing a rise in tuberculosis cases so we approved an
7 increase of \$159,970 as proposed by the County Executive, and there don't appear to
8 be any issues with that. So that concludes Public Health. Next up is Behavioral Health
9 and Crisis Services. Do we have a branch chief here? Dick Kunkle is Acting Chief, is
10 that correct, or Behavioral Health and Crisis Services? And we had a few issues here
11 that occupied the committee's time. And let me just give you the overview. The
12 Executive recommends a total of \$60.5 million and 290.6 work years; this is an increase
13 of \$6.4 million or 12% over the current year budget. No, I am good. Thank you. And I
14 am just going to hit the highlights of issues that occupied the committee's attention here,
15 because we really went along with the County Executive on the fundamentals of this
16 budget. We agreed with the County Executive on the hospital diversions grants with
17 shelter services. Although we suspect we are still under-budgeting on shelter services
18 but not as much as we used to under-budget. So we are moving in the direction of
19 honest budgeting; we're just not 100% honest yet. We supported the County
20 Executive's recommendation on housing stabilization services, on child and adolescent
21 mental health services. Now there are a number of new programs and initiatives that I
22 want to now turn to; so we are on pages 44 through 46. And these were the issues --
23 there really was no disagreement on the issues that I went over before now, other than
24 on the issue of the motel placements, the shelter services, and we're going to continue
25 to watch that because really we should -- the goal here is we should be budgeting in the
26 spring for what we really believe we are going to spend in the coming year. But I'm now
27 at the bottom of page 44 on the Public Inebriate Initiative. This is a new effort. It had
28 been requested for many years by merchants in high impact areas - Takoma, Langley
29 an Long Branch, where -- I don't want to be too cute about it; you have drunks
30 staggering around in front of the businesses. The businesses were concerned about it
31 and had been asking the County to adopt a new approach. That is an approach other
32 than doing nothing. And the approach adopted by the department now is a joint effort
33 with the police and through our Crisis Intervention Team, where we have the police
34 giving the inebriated person a choice of whether to be arrested for an offense or instead
35 whether to be refer to the Avery Road Treatment Center and to treatment beds. We
36 implemented this as a Council initiative in fiscal 07; it is up and running; and the County
37 Executive is recommending that in its second year it receive \$390,580. And the
38 committee concurs with that with Councilmember Trachtenberg, not favoring the
39 approach and not supporting the initiative. Did you want to comment, Ms.
40 Trachtenberg?

41
42 Councilmember Trachtenberg,
43 No. You know. (inaudible).



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1 Councilmember Leventhal,
2 Okay. I can't see the lights, Mr. Vice President. Okay. On panhandling, the committee
3 placed \$68,000 on the reconciliation list for an approach similar to that that is being
4 used now for public inebriates to try and do outreach and get these people into services.
5 It is an effort that the committee has been working on for several years. It has not been
6 funded. It is not funded in this year's budget. We'll see whether it survives the
7 reconciliation list this time. Issue number 7, at the top of page 46; and I want to thank
8 our Mental Health Commission. What's is the official name of that commission?

9
10 Unidentified,
11 Mental Health Advisory Committee.

12
13 Councilmember Leventhal,
14 The Mental Health Advisory Committee, that, you know, what we do every year I have a
15 breakfast and I know the department director also meets a couple of times a year with I
16 believe there are 14 boards and commissions that advise you. I don't know if you have
17 had a chance to meet with all of them yet.

18
19 Ms. Ahuwalia,
20 We meet quarterly.

21
22 Councilmember Leventhal,
23 You meet quarterly. We meet once a year. We have a breakfast with them. And from
24 that discussion a couple of very helpful initiatives came into the budget, and with
25 respect to the Mental Health Advisory Committee, a high priority for that committee was
26 that we provide round the clock coverage for our Mental Health Crisis Intervention
27 Team. And we heard a lot about that. We had a joint meeting of the Public Safety
28 Committee and the HHS Committee to learn how our crisis center interacts with the
29 police department, and how when we have people in desperate need anytime of day or
30 night, we are able to dispatch joint efforts with both the police department and people
31 with clinical training who are able to assess the mental state of the person in crisis. But
32 we have today a gap that between midnight and 8:00 a.m. there is not any coverage.
33 I'm sorry. And so the committee thinks we ought to do that; we ought to provide
34 coverage round the clock. And we put that -- I believe I speak for the committee -- as
35 our highest budget priority on the reconciliation list in the amount of \$253,130. So I
36 emphasis this so that my colleagues will vote for it when it comes to figuring out what
37 survives in the final budget. This was a very high -- again I believe I speak for myself
38 and Mr. Berliner and Ms. Trachtenberg. This was a very high priority.

39
40 Vice President Knapp,
41 Say that one more time so that I'll remember.

42
43 Councilmember Leventhal,



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1 And then Councilmember Trachtenberg initiated a proposal for addiction services, and
2 she can speak to it herself if she would like to. It's \$20,000 to provide acupuncture
3 treatment for people struggling with substance abuse addiction.

4
5 Councilmember Trachtenberg,

6 Well a very wise investment. Attached to the package are two citations from two
7 research papers that have been specifically done around the integration of acupuncture
8 into addiction services, and why it is a good thing, and what happens when it is
9 provided. And in a nutshell what happens is that it overwhelmingly will keep people in
10 treatment for a longer period of time. Some of the recent literature suggests that it also
11 gets more people to come to treatment in the first place. And my request simply was to
12 place \$20,000 in the reconciliation list so that we could provide acupuncture to those
13 who are in our drug court program and also in our intensive outpatient program. And I
14 would note that this is something that has been done in many drug court programs
15 nationally, again, with great success. So for not an enormous amount of money I think
16 we have increased the likelihood that some of the folks in the community receiving
17 addiction services will actually stay in treatment longer.

18
19 Councilmember Leventhal,

20 Great. And if there are no other lights on that would conclude Behavioral and Addiction
21 Services. So -- Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, Okay, so next up in the HSS
22 Department is Children, Youth and Family Services, which the service area is headed
23 by Kate Garvey, and she is coming up to the table now. The Executive recommends
24 \$64.8 million for this service area. That's an increase of \$4.9 million or 8.3%. In general
25 we approved the Executive's recommended budget. We had a number of questions on
26 juvenile justice issues. I don't know if Mr. Elrich is within earshot, but I want to thank him
27 for his participation with the committee. He is doing an excellent job of getting his mind
28 around the many different programs and many different departments that are
29 addressing juvenile justice and gang prevention, and he consistently asks thought-
30 provoking questions. And I appreciated them very much. And we actually did not go
31 along with some of the recommendations of the County Executive. Let me just work
32 throw the highlights here. Well I've already described the overall service area. And I
33 don't know is Collaboration Council here?

34
35 President Praisner,

36 No. They were here this morning.

37
38 Councilmember Leventhal,

39 Okay. I am going to go ahead and distribute the material that they sent to me because
40 they are not happy with us. Just send this down. They are not here, but they wanted to
41 protest some of the reductions that we made, and they are hoping that we can go ahead
42 with the County Executive's budget recommendations. And what we did was we did not
43 support one of two items in their Leverage Initiative. Karen, help me find that. Where am
44 I?



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1
2 Ms. Orlansky,
3 Bottom of 48. On the bottom.

4
5 Councilmember Leventhal,
6 Right. We did fund the development position, isn't that so? What page is that -- where is
7 that described?

8
9 Ms. Orlansky,
10 On page 50.

11
12 Councilmember Leventhal,
13 I'm trying to save time but I'm jumping all over the place.

14
15 Ms. Orlansky,
16 If you go to the summary descriptions beginning on page 50, Leverage Initiative,
17 \$200,000. That was their full request.

18
19 Councilmember Leventhal,
20 Right, so all of this is connected to the broad effort to provide alternatives and make
21 sure that young people are engaged in productive activity and not engaged in violent
22 and unproductive activity. We -- I am sorry, I am having trouble finding the place in the
23 memo. We funded \$100,000 for a development director to get outside funding -- outside
24 grants; and that is discussed on page 48. Where is the reduction? I'm just having
25 trouble finding this in the memo.

26
27 Ms. Orlansky,
28 If you go to 52, it says exactly what you did on each of the items.

29
30 Unidentified,
31 Okay (inaudible) to 52.

32
33 Ms. Orlansky,
34 (inaudible) the recommendations.

35
36 Councilmember Leventhal,
37 Yeah. Okay. So we voted to support funding the director of a Montgomery Youth
38 Investment Fund position, and that is to seek outside funding. One of the reasons we
39 created the new structure of the local management board was in the hope that as on
40 outside nonprofit we would be able to get foundation support and private donor support,
41 and this would be a position specifically dedicated to that for the purpose of the Youth
42 Violence Prevention effort. We were not persuaded by the description of the director of
43 program development; and where is that description that we found so unpersuasive?
44



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1 Ms. Orlansky,

2 Well, it is on page 50, but it was elaborated on during the committee session.

3
4 Councilmember Leventhal,

5 Okay. All right. Now, Kate Garvey, here is your chance to make the pitch in plain
6 English for this position because the committee was not persuaded last time you tried.

7
8 Ms. Garvey,

9 Well I appreciate the new opportunity. I'm Kate Garvey, Chief of Children, Youth, and
10 Family Services. As all of you were present for the out-of-school time presentation from
11 the Collaboration Council, we clearly talked about the need to have a system of out-of
12 school services as we have been talking about, with the gang prevention initiative to
13 really look at how are we linking all of the services together; how we are looking at
14 standards; how we are assuring the quality of the services that are provided. That takes
15 coordination. That takes communication with all the non-profit providers who do deliver
16 the service. and this position was intended really to galvanize that group of youth
17 providers as well as to engage additional groups, and to assure the quality and training
18 for them. Again, looking at -- and I think we've seen before in looking at the description
19 of where after-school programs are throughout the county, crews managing them, that
20 there truly is a need for coordination. I think we have talked about it in identifying the
21 gravest needs, and making sure that we are responding to it. So that is what this
22 position was intended to do.

23
24 Councilmember Leventhal,

25 Okay. Are there any comments or questions from Councilmembers?

26
27 President Praisner,

28 Yes, Councilmember Ervin first.

29
30 Councilmember Ervin,

31 Thank you, Mrs. Praisner. I have been following this just in the packet, and I am
32 wondering what the relationship is between the Leverage Initiative and the Seed
33 Program, because it seems to me that there must be some connectivity to those two; if
34 you could speak to that.

35
36 Ms. Garvey,

37 Absolutely. And this is another opportunity to try to speak in plain English, so if I am
38 going left if you could let me know. The Seed Project was really looking at providing
39 hardcore services in the three communities that have been selected by the County
40 Executive as our key Youth Violence Prevention coordination efforts. So that is
41 Germantown, Silver Spring and Wheaton. The Seed Initiative was really looking at
42 bringing model programs within those communities. And again within the context of
43 coordination in looking at what is available in those communities currently, are there
44 approaches that are working that need to be strengthen, are there new initiatives that



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1 need to be carried; so it is linked both in assessing what is currently being provided and
2 then delivering the services.

3
4 Councilmember Ervin,

5 Let me follow up that with I am looking at the bottom of page 51 where it says the
6 Executive's total proposed FY08 funding for Youth, Violence and Gang Prevention
7 initiatives that OMB has identify \$5. 3 million in FY08 tax supported funds for these
8 efforts. I heard the County Executive at a press conference -- I didn't hear him actually, I
9 read that he say these words, that the County has put more than \$6 million into gang
10 initiatives. I really -- I am really having trouble as I am going through this packet and
11 others that have come before you by the way, it is not just HHS, it has been police, it
12 has been recreation, it has been education, and almost every single budget we have
13 looked at there is some amount of dollars dedicated to this issue -- this gang -- this
14 gang/crime/youth initiatives, and there is a lot of money there. And so far we have not
15 seen one place where all of the initiatives exist and what the total amount of tax
16 supported dollars we're allocating to eradicating youth violence, which if you were here
17 a few days ago and heard from, you know, I think it was -- there was someone here
18 from the Circuit Court -- I remember exactly who made the comment, but I asked the
19 question, you know, what kind of crime are we actually talking about when we're talking
20 about this issue of gang violence. And it's problematic to me in a lot of ways, and it's not
21 anything that you all are doing wrong, it's that this has become the issue du jour where
22 we're like just rolling money at an issue that it appears to me is not as huge as we have
23 let the public believe it is. And I -- and so, you know, I am going to follow up with this as
24 we get down through this packet some more. But I am trying to figure out -- and I know
25 that the Collaboration Council is doing fabulous work around this, but I am trying to
26 figure out where are the -- what are the nexus points here and how are we managing it.

27
28 Councilmember Leventhal,

29 I just agree very much with what my colleague said. And, Mr. Elrich, I don't know if you
30 heard the nice things I said about you a while ago.

31
32 President Praisner,

33 We're going to put them on replay.

34
35 Councilmember Leventhal,

36 Maybe your staff was there.

37
38 President Praisner,

39 Let's go to the tape.

40
41 Councilmember Leventhal,

42 Look, we have had a consistent theme here, and I am going to articulate a couple of
43 points that I have heard from Mr. Elrich. He stated them very pointedly earlier and Ms.
44 Ervin has now said, okay. We want positive alternatives for youth, not because we think



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1 that every young person is going to join a gang. The size of our universe of young
2 people so vastly dwarfs the potential number of gang members. And when Chief Major
3 was here defending his budget, you know, burglary is our biggest crime problem in
4 Montgomery County -- robbery -- robbery is our biggest crime problem. And gangs, I
5 mean, we can find that out from him, but it's not in the top three, it's not in the top four.
6 So we have got to try and keep this gang issue in some sense of perspective, and
7 specifically with respect to the Collaboration Council, we want an inventory of after-
8 school programs because we believe that after-school programs provide constructive
9 activities for young people, and we want young people engaged in constructive
10 activities. We don't fear that every young person is going to join a gang. We want to
11 provide them with outlets and safe places to learn and play and grow and, you know,
12 recreate and get exercise and get fit. So it's important to -- and so when we justify
13 everything on the basis of, you know, this is part of our gang initiative, that may be a
14 good way to get congressional earmarks, it has proven to be. Really. We've done very,
15 very well with congressional earmarks. So that is all good if we can continue to get
16 those. But when the Collaboration Council says we are going to give you our inventory
17 of after-school programs, we want that. And we need this position to assess, you know,
18 the value of those -- yes, okay. But we are trading that off against this evaluation
19 position and then also this Seed Initiative, we're trading that off against supporting
20 programs that we already know and support. And so I guess that is the question. We
21 can't have it both ways; let me end with this, okay? If we don't believe the programs we
22 are funding now are effective then why are we funding them? If we need a whole lot
23 more money to assess what is effective so we can develop new approaches that are
24 effective, I guess the question is what were we doing before? Why do we need a whole
25 lot more? And how did we decide up to now to fund the programs that we were funding?
26 It seems surprising that we would be funding all of these community-serving
27 organizations including those in Germantown, Wheaton and Silver Spring without this
28 mechanism in place.

29
30 Ms. Garvey,

31 I want to go back to the first point and I think, I mean, there is clearly agreement that
32 what our approach is not about because we have the worst gang problem anywhere in
33 the region; there is no question that is not true. And as the County Executive's approach
34 has been that this is a Youth Violence Prevention effort, but I could stretch that even
35 more, that the Out-of-School Time Initiative was really looking at an approach that we
36 do feel is effective. And we felt that we needed to link these things together so many
37 times, I think this body or at least the HHS committee has said to us, it seems as if
38 they're disparate things going on, why have you not linked them together? This budget
39 attempted to do that. Now clearly it would have been preferable for us to come together
40 -- police, State's Attorney, MCPS, Recreation, HHS and others to present what was in
41 this budget. We didn't have that opportunity. We would like to do that in the future. But I
42 think that the components that are present for funding are trying to look at different
43 elements. We're not able to fund everything, but to really try to support on this end the
44 clear prevention end, after school, out of school, all the way to the state's attorney and



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1 to the police. And to your point about what is the quality and assessing the quality, we
2 have been meeting monthly with youth providers who are attempting to work with the
3 youth who are gang-involved, who may be gang-involved, or are just really struggling
4 and trying to do the best they can. And we have been providing them with support and
5 technical assistance. We feel it needs to be strengthen and expanded again to look at a
6 whole system of out-of-school service that is of highest quality and is getting the
7 outcomes that people are looking for. Again, I hear the concern about how things have
8 been presented and the level of investment, but we do believe that part of the reason
9 we don't have the worst gang problem in the area is because we have done a lot of
10 prevention here; we've invested a lot.

11
12 Councilmember Leventhal,

13 Oh, gee, you think? Maybe it is because we are more affluent? Do you think maybe it is
14 because we have an excellent school system? Come on you don't think there is any
15 other factor other than all of this discussion -- I'm sorry, Kate.

16
17 Ms. Garvey,

18 It isn't the single bullet but there is clearly -- there has been a commitment by this
19 County to provide intervention services, and looking at those in lower-income
20 neighborhoods, we've really tried to do a lot, and we don't see the level of violence.
21 There is no question the affluence of this community plays a great role -- .

22
23 Councilmember Leventhal,

24 On the mean streets of Chevy Chase -- thank goodness that the HHS Department has
25 coordinated all of these leveraging and assessment of effectiveness so that we don't
26 have a bigger gang problem in Avenell am not -- .

27
28 Ms. Garvey,

29 I am not saying that is the only factor at all. That would be ridiculous. But I am saying
30 that we have invested a lot and it has made a difference.

31
32 Councilmember Leventhal,

33 I am sorry to jump in there. I just had to react to that. I do think there's some other
34 factors that account for Montgomery County, you know, why Montgomery County is
35 different.

36
37 President Praisner,

38 Councilmember Elrich.

39
40 Councilmember Elrich,

41 We need to rename this stuff to something different. It ought to be Youth Potential
42 Development Effort, rather than Crime and Violence Prevention. I mean, the biggest
43 problem facing these kids is pro-graduation rate, and if you read the article the other
44 day in the paper, it's a question of which is the right graduation rate for Montgomery



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1 County. But if the study is right then our graduation rate in Montgomery County is even
2 more problematic than we thought. It's failure rates, it's low scores, and low
3 performance for the kids that do get out of school and all the consequences that
4 involves for later in life of which violence is only what a small portion of those people are
5 going to engage in. What the reality is is kids who are set up for economic failure, the
6 inability to properly support families, the inability to meet their healthcare needs, and a
7 whole host of other things. That to me is where our efforts ought to be going. And if you
8 did all that then you will deal with the violence. But if you think you are going to deal with
9 the violence separate from dealing with all these other things, this isn't going to happen.
10 And I am so tired of everything being framed. It's either a gang member -- these are
11 kids who are either gang members or their violent. If they're not gang members they're
12 just going to slit your throat; they're going to do it independently rather than just part of a
13 group. I mean, we need to start focusing on getting kids the services they need so they
14 can be successful, so they can grow up and live fruitful productive lives, and the rest of
15 the stuff will get dealt with in time. I am flabbergasted at this need to study stuff. I'm like
16 George. It's just like -- this is -- why don't you just sit down in a room and say what are
17 our programs and who is in the programs and where is it served. I mean it doesn't seem
18 like that is a question that anybody, not just your department, can answer in general
19 about programs we do this county. Who do we serve; what are the different groups
20 doing it; how many people are served. I mean, it seems like before you spend money on
21 somebody doing that the departments ought to be able to answer these questions. They
22 ought to be able to come before Council and say comprehensively this is what we are
23 doing in the county and all parts of the county, and this the population we are serving.
24 Do that and then talk about what kind of programs you need to supplement on top of
25 that, if that is what you discover. But I feel like there is a whole lot of groundwork that
26 needs to be done without spending money on consultants. And if we have got a couple
27 hundred thousand dollars here and there to spend on consultants, I will say what I said
28 earlier when you weren't here, I would rather put it into programs that deliver direct
29 services. I am not interested in funding studies. I mean, dealing with kids is not rocket
30 science, and it is a matter of what you make a decision to invest in program-wise. But I
31 feel like we will study stuff forever. And I got to say, the demographics of Montgomery
32 County are what make Montgomery County fundamentally different than the places that
33 I -- there are places in Montgomery County that have deep-seated poverty. We've seen
34 the red maps, but even go into places like that, I can take you 10 miles from here and
35 make those places look like paradise. So we have not quite aloud those areas of the
36 county to fall off the cliff yet and hopefully we won't. But keeping them off the cliff is not
37 going to a program focused at youth, it is going to be a commitment of this county to
38 deal with housing quality and jobs for the parents and things that help stabilize those
39 communities. But enough said. I am not happy with this study approach.

40
41 Councilmember Leventhal,

42 Okay. Well I let me just pose the question then to the Council; is there any disagreement
43 with the committee's decision to reduce \$100,000 in the Leverage Initiative proposed to



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1 hire a new director of program development at the Collaboration Council? Is there any
2 move to disagree with that committee recommendation?

3
4 President Praisner,

5 I actually think it is not worded the way it needs to be. The frustration we have at this
6 table is actually what I think this position is designed to do. But given the conversation
7 and comments that I made this morning related to the Recreation Department issue and
8 the early Childhood position that this Council tried to create to deliver a program to be a
9 change agent and to move things in both HHS and MCPS, I am not prepared at this
10 point to change the committee's recommendation. But I am prepared to sit down with
11 my colleagues and schedule the kind of meeting and perhaps the second of the
12 meetings that we need to have with the Board of Education, but also to have the State's
13 Attorney and others in the room, and to have a conversation about the Council's
14 frustration, but also to have a better understanding and some accountability from all of
15 the departments. I share my colleague's concern about everything being packaged as a
16 gang initiative issue. On the other hand, I think we all agree there are problems we need
17 to address. The question of how great they all are is part of the issue and how much
18 ahead of them we are and what we do about it. But if we can't talk together and if it has
19 to be that a piece is packaged in each budget on this item in order to justify the position
20 or to where the focus or initiative is, then that is what we have to fix, in my view. How we
21 present it and what it is and whether it is all coordinated, and I didn't even mention the
22 word libraries. Councilmember Trachtenberg.

23
24 Councilmember Trachtenberg,

25 I promise I won't either. I just want to make some brief comments. You know, I
26 appreciate comments from all my colleagues this afternoon. And, you know, my
27 frustration with the Leverage Initiative was that it just wasn't very clear to me what the
28 purpose was, and even if I understood it, that it was a priority. And I have bias in this, I
29 admit it, because of the many years that I worked with children in the community. But
30 my inclination, like Marc's, and I know others, is really to fund those things that are
31 direct services, and that is precisely why the committee voted to increase the funding for
32 those services. The Seed program, I was a little bit more willing to go there, and
33 certainly that is clear in the packet. But I have to say that I have spent some time
34 thinking about it since we had the work session, and I am actually not as inclined at this
35 point. I think there is merit to trying to do what you want to do. I just don't think we are
36 there yet. And I would suggest that the conversation that the Council President is
37 recommending would probably be a very fruitful one, because it is true that our issues
38 revolve around much more than any kind of gang activity issues here in the County. But
39 I also think the other part that I see is that we still do not have adequate services for
40 kids in the county, and that one of our goals we might want to really consider would be
41 the development of really comprehensive services on school site as well, which is
42 something that I have been talking about for many, many years, and I know many of my
43 colleagues share that as a goal. So I think, you know, we have got to go back to the



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1 table and come up with a plan, come up with detail that we can all agree on, and those
2 conversations probably need to happen sooner rather than later.

3
4 President Praisner,

5 This may be more a deferral than a denial issue. And that conversation may lead us to
6 be more, I think, responsive. Councilmember Ervin.

7
8 Councilmember Ervin,

9 I appreciate Mrs. Praisner's comments and I ditto them. I think it was very well put. I just
10 wanted to end with one comment and that is all this talk about gangs and youth violence
11 has unintended consequences. And I see the way it plays out for me is this increased
12 hate in our county and racism that is more overt than I have ever seen it, and I have
13 lived here for a very long time. And so people see these kids on the street and
14 immediately want to cross on the other side of the street to keep from walking anywhere
15 near them or for me, I have an example about getting on an elevator and a woman
16 clutched her bag closer to her because she was afraid when I got open the elevator.

17
18 Councilmember Leventhal,

19 Well that's because you were a County Council person.

20
21 Councilmember Ervin,

22 That could be. I should have known.

23
24 Councilmember Leventhal,

25 They've got it figured out. They know who we are.

26
27 Councilmember Ervin,

28 I immediately thought the other thing. Well what I am trying to say is our community is
29 changing very rapidly, and the way we use words, and we have had this conversation
30 before, when we spoke with the Collaboration Council. The way we describe things and
31 the way we use words can have a very detrimental effect on not only those youth that
32 we're talking about, but how we deal with each other in our county. So I think that Ms.
33 Praisner has come up with a great solution and I look forward to having these
34 conversations.

35
36 President Praisner,

37 Councilmember Berliner.

38
39 Councilmember Berliner,

40 Well, Ms. Garvey, as you know, I will join the Chair with respect to feeling that this
41 wasn't ready for primetime, in part because it seemed as if it was two things; one doing
42 an internal assessment of where the gaps are and then going out and trying to fill the
43 gaps. I felt that we could probably do this in two phases and that it would appropriate for
44 a supplement appropriation as opposed to in this particular budget. And I share with my



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1 colleagues as well as with you that one of the dilemmas we have of course, given the
2 budget that was given us and given the revenue projections that were part of that
3 budget is that we are all scrambling to find ways in which to save dollars now, but that
4 many of us believe we are going to have many, many millions of dollars that are going
5 to be more in revenue than we currently project. Last year in income taxes alone we
6 had \$96 million more income tax revenue than was part of the budget approved by this
7 previous Council, all right. \$96 million more came in the door. Now that might not
8 happen this year but I am willing to bet that there is going to be a lot of dollars left. And
9 so part of the conversation my colleagues and I are having is what we should put on a
10 supplemental appropriation list of priority for the Council that as we go through this
11 budget in the next few days that we keep in mind there are going to be more dollars
12 throughout the course of the year that are going to become available. And I pledge to
13 you, as I would to my Chair with respect to things like Montgomery Cares and other
14 programs that are near and dear to us, that, you know, come back to us when this is
15 slightly more refined so that we can get on board.

16
17 President Praisner,
18 Okay. Councilmember Knapp.

19
20 Vice President Knapp,
21 Thank you, Madam President. As we all take our swipe, I think everyone is very
22 committed. I think one of the challenges that we have is that I know that you all have
23 had conversations and then have kind of come forward as a group and kind of
24 presented those conversations, and then you kind of each carry your individual pieces
25 forward, which makes it really challenging. And I think that we have not been a part of
26 some of that dialogue. And so while I appreciate the Council President's suggestion, I
27 would even suggest that we come up with some clear timelines in which whatever that
28 conversation is supposed to contribute to says we have until September 15th to really
29 come up with a clear strategy, all of us, the task force that has been out there, the
30 Council. Because the longer we delay, in many respects, I think the more difficult we
31 make the situation for our providers; the more difficult the situation for our youth who are
32 dealing with whatever challenges they are on a daily basis. There are a lot of thing out
33 there but how do we make sure we match those pieces up? I think the biggest problem
34 is we just don't have the right people in the room. And so I would encourage us not to
35 just have the conversation but to really have specific outcomes from that meeting that
36 we can then begin to act upon so that within a month of that meeting, we are actually
37 coming forward to the Executive Branch and the Council with clear recommendations
38 and funding strategies to get those things done so that we can then when we get back
39 here next year, really see where we stand as opposed to just having that dialogue.
40 Because I feel your pain because you're sitting over there going one piece of seven
41 people who are supposed to be having this conversation. And that's hard too. But I think
42 that's an important point for us to get to, is to have all in a room with a clear outcome,
43 and then get funded and move forward.



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1 President Praisner,
2 You know the technology -- the criminal justice technology system required multiple
3 departments to be in the room, and each to take their turn as to which and how we
4 would fund them to get through the CRIMS pieces; the State's Attorney's piece, the
5 correction's piece, the police piece, each of those pieces and obviously we are not
6 totally there yet. But at least there was a crosscutting, cross department presentation
7 and review by joint committees that allowed us to see the big picture as well as look at
8 the pieces. And I think that is what is missing and that is where I keep saying we need a
9 program budget rather than department by department. Councilmember Elrich.

10
11 Councilmember Elrich,
12 I just wanted to respond to something Roger said. Even if I had \$90 million more I don't
13 know that I would fund this. I mean the more fundamental question is when we want
14 accountability to understand whether or not things are working does everything require
15 a new study and new people. And at what point can we say if we got a bunch of
16 programs in place can't the departments with the resources and what they're doing now
17 tell us whether -- what they put in place or not as George said in the beginning, is
18 working? I just -- I'm sort of frustrated because this has come up in several different
19 departments, you know, like this response to this sense that this Council wants
20 accountability, is well, we'll create positions and do studies to give you accountability.
21 And it is sort of like well you guys have been operating for a while, I mean, how about
22 telling me what is working based on what your experiences are rather than creating a
23 new way of trying to find out.

24
25 Ms. Garvey,
26 I think part of it is the way I am describing the position because it truly is a program
27 manager, is not about surveying or evaluation. It is really how do we get these things all
28 together? How do we make sure the after-school programs are working? Not studying
29 or sitting back, but true implementation of an out-of-school-time network throughout the
30 county. So I think I am describing it in a way that is not conveying that clearly.

31
32 Councilmember Elrich,
33 Why can't there be a sit down with the people that run the programs with people on your
34 staff already and saying let's talk about it. Why do I need a program manager to do
35 that? It is not like it's going to be an every day discussion all year long. It seems to me
36 like a summit of people who are delivering services where you lock people in a room for
37 a weekend or a week and you say we need to talk about and evaluate what we are
38 doing.

39
40 Councilmember Leventhal,
41 A classic, if I may, Madam President.

42
43 President Praisner,
44 Uh-huh.



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Councilmember Leventhal,

A classic governmental response to the classic problem that is identified, the cliché of stove-piping or smoke-stacking that every agency is doing something and that we don't know in a crosscutting way what we're all doing that relate to each other is well let's build in a whole lot more overhead and add yet more program coordinators because we are not talking to each other now. And that is what I am hearing here.

Ms. Ahuwalia,

Let me just try this for a second. It is clear this administration is relatively new and picked up on this initiative that existed before. It is a high priority for the County Executive.

Councilmember Erich,

I am sorry what is a high-priority?

Ms Ahluwalia,

Positive youth development and addressing -- there is sort of a three-pronged approach in this, which is prevention, intervention and suppression. So the suppression is a smaller part, obviously there are many far, far fewer youth who need suppression; most of our focus should be in the prevention area, making sure that youth have positive opportunities for development. We recognized amongst ourselves this is not new conversation and we are happy to engage in that, but even amongst our (inaudible) there are so many new people in leadership post positions who had slightly very different opinions as to what this initiative should look like or what it should be, and we came together. And this is just part one of our two, three part conversation to come together and say where does all the money exist? What are our different roles? What is it the role of the police versus recreation and HHS? I mean, what is it that we're trying to do collectively, not in a siloed approach; what is it that we want to do together? And it is a conversation finished? No. I mean, it is something that is forming because there was a steering committee that did sit -- activities up until October, November and then we picked the ball back up again in February and March when all of us were in our different roles. So you are picking up to some degree some of the reformation, if you will, of the work, and you are reacting to some of that. What I do want to say is that there is a commitment for all of the departments not to work in a siloed approach, for us to work together. We would like very much for the committees to come together and for us to have a joint hearing on the issue of youth; whether that is from a prevention perspective and intervention and/or suppression. I don't think any one of those three can walk alone. They have to go together. Because there is some of everything, but most of prevention, I hope. And that is sort of where the work of both the Collaboration Council (inaudible) leverage initiative and the Seed programs were coming in to put more of the emphasis on the prevention. That there were more questions than there were answers, it makes good sense for us to go back and put those answers together and tell us what is (inaudible) community engagement efforts that we want to put forth to make sure that



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1 those communities' specific needs are being met. So I want to acknowledge that you
2 are sensing some of the tentativeness in our own work and that is not inappropriate, but
3 also to tell you that we are very committed as an executive to work together with all of
4 the departments coming forward. Thank you.

5
6 Councilmember Leventhal,

7 Okay. I would like to comment again if I may. You know, I wrote the bill that structured
8 the current configuration of the Collaboration Council. And we included on it
9 departmental representatives from HHS, from the school system, from these different
10 agencies that have jurisdiction over these programs. And we hope that in that setting
11 there is a, you know, comparing of notes and a sharing of programs and compiling of
12 information that should not require yet more program people to facilitate. The
13 conversations should be going on in the very structure of the organization itself. That's
14 why it was created the way it was. That is why HSS has a permanent seat on the
15 Collaboration Council. That is why the school system has a permanent seat on the
16 Collaboration Council. I guess, Kate, I should not have been so sharp in my reaction to
17 what you said; however if it is really the belief of Montgomery County government that
18 the reason we don't face some of the same crime and unproductive activities that they
19 face in the District of Columbia is because of our success at bureaucratic models of
20 program evaluation and coordination. I think that is a fundamental misunderstanding of
21 basic economics. I mean, we are just a luckier place for a variety of reasons. And we
22 have fundamentals here that make us very, very different. And so -- so there is that. In
23 addition, I would want to echo what was said earlier because we need to change our
24 thinking about this. I think Marc, again, was exactly right. I've just heard the director talk
25 about prevention, suppression and intervention. All of these things are based on fear.
26 We're afraid of bad things happening. We want to prevent bad things. We want to
27 intervene so bad things don't happen. We want to suppress bad things. But my intent in
28 calling for this study of after-school programs;, I asked (inaudible) to do it and then I
29 learned the Collaboration Council was doing it -- was to inventory the good things that
30 were happening and to find out where we don't have good things so that we can create
31 good things to provide opportunities. I want kids to participate in Out-of-School Time so
32 they get exercise. I want kids to participate in Out-of-School Time so they get tutoring. I
33 want kids to improve their learning and have fun and get fit. So I don't look at my
34 support for these programs because, you know, these are little monsters who are going
35 turn into criminals if we don't do these things. We want kids to be engaged in productive
36 activities. So even the basic framework that you have articulated -- prevention and
37 intervention and suppression -- suggests a mindset that is not my mindset in looking at
38 what we want for our youth.

39
40 Councilmember Ervin,

41 It is not all kids, George; it's some kids, and they probably don't look like your kids.

42
43 Ms. Ahluwalia,



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1 But I also want to say when I use the word prevention it is not just for adverse outcomes
2 in terms of gangs, it is prevention in terms for adverse outcomes around anything.
3 Whether it's exercise is good for health, it is for health. It's for well-being. It's for safety.
4 It's for permanency. It's for all of those outcomes that we want for our young people. So
5 I don't -- I wasn't coming at it from a deficit perspective, I was just saying that prevention
6 actually strengthens the positive outcomes that we want young people to have in their
7 communities for a variety of perspectives; good recreation, positive engagement, good
8 social connections. All of those are very important outcomes. So I certainly wasn't
9 necessarily implying that we are coming at it from a deficit perspective. I just wanted to
10 make that clarification.

11
12 Councilmember Leventhal,

13 Think about what you are hearing though. Because I think you are getting useful
14 feedback here. I mean, we are talking about youth violence prevention. Again, the
15 words we're using -- prevention, suppression, intervention. I mean, is there a different
16 framework that we can use to think about these things?

17
18 President Praisner,

19 Well, but that -- I think this is an excellent issue that has been raised. And I think it is for
20 outside of the budget conversation about how we frame things. We had a conversation
21 this morning about the after-school programs in the Rec department. What we have
22 learned from the sports academies and others is that the students do better
23 academically. So it is a prevention of failure academically that has young people
24 involved and feeling more positive about their school career and school activity. So I
25 think what I am hearing from my colleagues is a concern about language; a concern
26 that it may lead to assumptions about young people or some of our young people; and
27 also a concern that we see these in different budgets in different pieces, without a fully
28 developed comprehensive understanding of how this fits together, and how it fits with
29 other things. Remember, some of us sat here and saw the first gang prevention initiative
30 highlighting class size reduction as the major component for the school system. So, you
31 know, we -- I think there is some concern among Councilmembers that we be clear
32 about what the goals are for these programs. There certainly is a need for better
33 coordination among county departments and agencies. There certainly is a need to
34 know where programs are available, opportunities are available for young people, and
35 where they are not, such that we may expand options for young people. That sounds
36 positive to me, not necessarily a goal of reducing negative, something negative. But it
37 requires, I think, further conversation. And I mean, real conversation because, of while I
38 thought the Collaboration Council presentation to us, both the board and the Council,
39 was helpful; the limited team we had basically had each of us commenting and you
40 presenting, and really didn't have conversation associated with it. So we need to do
41 more of that.

42
43 Councilmember Leventhal,
44 Madam President, if I may.



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1
2 President Praisner,
3 Sure.

4
5 Councilmember Leventhal,
6 I have been considering how to respond to my colleague's comment. And let me just
7 say this. This is a big county but it is not all that big. I know that myself and all
8 Councilmembers work very, very hard to really get in touch with the circumstances that
9 our constituents face. My children's mother is a first generation immigrant from South
10 America; and so I think my children and my family actually understand quite a bit about
11 the circumstances of the various communities that we are trying to address. And I would
12 not seek to suggest that I understand better or worse than any other Councilmember,
13 and I hope that all Councilmembers would be respectful of all of our efforts to get in
14 touch with the needs of our constituents and understand how best to serve them.

15
16 President Praisner,
17 Okay.

18
19 Councilmember Ervin,
20 Was that directed toward my comment, George? Because it wasn't met to -- .

21
22 Councilmember Leventhal,
23 Yeah, my Latino children are doing the very best to survive just as all of our constituents
24 are.

25
26 President Praisner,
27 Okay. Let's move on.

28
29 Councilmember Leventhal,
30 I appreciate that they look good. They are nice looking kids. And I appreciate the
31 compliment.

32
33 Councilmember Ervin,
34 They are very cute kids, George. I would ditto that.

35
36 President Praisner,
37 Okay. Let's move on. I believe there are no motions by Councilmembers, so the
38 committee's recommendations at this point stand, and we can move to the next item; I
39 believe associated with juvenile justice activities, is that it?

40
41 Councilmember Leventhal,
42 Well, I mean just to close out; I am sorry on that matter. It appears there is not a desire
43 on the part of the Council to change the committee's recommendation with respect to
44 the Leverage Initiative or let me just classify on the Seed program. So we are going



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1 along with the committee's recommendations there. The committee also recommended
2 \$75,000 in three increments for additional wraparound services; three increments of
3 \$25,000 each. And the range of programs supported by a variety of grants, both federal
4 and state, are described on page 51. If there are any questions about those I can go
5 into greater detail, but if not, I think that would conclude the discussion of juvenile justice
6 programs.

7
8 President Praisner,
9 Okay. I see no other lights, so.

10
11 Councilmember Leventhal,
12 Okay.

13
14 President Praisner,
15 Move on to Issue 2.

16
17 Councilmember Leventhal,
18 And Issue 2 is Childcare Subsidies. The committee went along with the Executive's
19 recommended budget, and we will continue to look at how best to provide these
20 services. The great challenge that we face, we -- the committee was somewhat
21 surprised to learn that we have in effect under enrollment in the county's Working
22 Parents Assistance Program; the families that we most desire to serve are the very
23 hardest families to reach. And in addition, there is good news with respect to the state
24 Purchase of Care program. There are more families participating in that. And so we
25 created here in the county the Working Parents Assistance Program to cover the gaps
26 where there were families that for one reason or another were not eligible for Purchase
27 of Care; in fact more families have been picked up on the Purchase of Care program.
28 And so we went along with the County Executive's recommended budget on that
29 program. Again, can't see if there are lights on, so.

30
31 President Praisner,
32 No.

33
34 Councilmember Leventhal,
35 Okay. With respect to Child Welfare, the committee agreed with the County Executive's
36 recommendation of \$19.2 million and 205 work years. This is an increase of \$1.4
37 million. And we -- actually this is not here, but let me just note that in the school's budget
38 we actually recommended adding \$40,000 for the purpose of transporting foster
39 children, making sure they can continue to attend their home school. This was another
40 recommendation that came from our board and commission breakfast, and is also a
41 priority for the department. Although it is not in the HHS budget, it is federal policy that
42 homeless children must be maintained at their home school to provide some measure
43 of stability for these unfortunate kids; For foster children also who are experiencing a



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1 great deal of dislocation and struggle in their daily lives. The best thinking in the field is
2 that it is advantageous to keep them in their home schools.

3
4 President Praisner,
5 Should they desire.

6
7 Councilmember Leventhal,
8 And we had that discussion in committee. The school system and the Division of Child
9 Welfare will develop a plan for each -- in each case. And if the child and the family and
10 actually the court appoint representative, which in these cases is the County,
11 determines it is in the child's best interest then they will go to the same school.

12
13 President Praisner,
14 The question I had is from a state perspective on the transportation requirement issues.
15 Because I know from my interactions with then County Representative Dutch
16 Rupersburger, that Baltimore County actually has a significant issue and a significant
17 amount of money that they put into transporting and foster care and both foster care
18 and group home initiatives and wonder would it not be useful for us to at least touch
19 base with Baltimore County to see if they have done any leveraging of this issue from a
20 state perspective. And also the extent to which is we look at legislative priorities, there
21 may be something we want to look at from a school transportation -- now the
22 transportation funding issue, I can tell you, was not looked at comprehensively during
23 Thornton, and may be an issue that transportation in general -- the state's funding for
24 school transportation is woefully inadequate, and the formula that was changed years
25 ago puts counties like Frederick and others at a disadvantage as well. So there may be
26 a need for us to develop an initiative in this area, working with school boards and some
27 of the other counties that would push for a reexamination of the foster child issue, but
28 also the broader transportation issue. Because it is relative at this time. Council Vice
29 President Knapp.

30
31 Vice President Knapp,
32 Thank you, Madam President. I thank the chair and I thank the committee for bringing
33 this forward -- or the department for bringing this forward as well, because it was
34 something we stumbled into last year. And I'd actually met with an advocacy
35 organization that supported legislation that was past in the state of Arizona this past
36 year to do exactly this. And so I think it is a great thing; we ought to be doing it. This is a
37 population that is amazingly underserved. And you want to talk about falling through the
38 cracks, this is the definition and the prototype of the children that do. And so I think it is
39 a great thing, but we also are looking at our state priorities just identifying legislation that
40 was passed in these other jurisdictions and see if we can even identify a potential
41 sponsor within the Montgomery County delegation and introduce what those other
42 states have potentially looked at.

43
44 President Praisner,



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1 I was actually thinking about a Baltimore County sponsor, Mike, could be better.

2
3 Vice President Knapp,
4 That could be fine too.

5
6 President Praisner,
7 Especially if Baltimore County continues to have this issue.

8
9 Vice President Knapp,
10 Whatever the best way to do that is to get that implemented and passed. Thank you.

11
12 Councilmember Leventhal,
13 So that would conclude Child Welfare Services if there are no further comments or
14 questions on that. Chairman Knapp, I will continue to guide the discussion if you would
15 like with respect to the items reviewed jointly by the HHS and Education committees.
16 Obviously we are dealing with six members here who serve on the two committees, and
17 anyone may chime in at any time including Chairman Knapp. With respect to linkages to
18 learning, the Executive recommended \$5.16 million for linkages to learning. This does
19 not, unfortunately, add any new sites in the current year. We have a plan to expand the
20 numbers of sites, but I believe we had to add money here -- we had to make up for a
21 lost federal grant.

22
23 Unidentified,
24 That's correct.

25
26 Councilmember Leventhal,
27 So the increase, unfortunately, does not create any new sites. With respect to -- if there
28 is no questions on linkages.

29
30 President Praisner,
31 My question is given our long-range plan, where are we now with that plan? How far
32 behind are we?

33
34 Ms. Garvey,
35 We are approximately two years behind when we do -- when we skip this year.

36
37 Vice President Knapp,
38 To that -- to that point, do we have anything else that's funded from any other additional
39 grants outside of our prevue? So everything now -- we're solely funding within the
40 County budget?

41
42 Ms. Garvey,
43 For linkages, yes. That's right.



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1 Vice President Knapp,
2 For linkages. So we can reconcile that and hopefully begin to take some steps forward.

3
4 Ms. Garvey,
5 And to address the infrastructure needs (inaudible).

6
7 Vice President Knapp,
8 Right.

9
10 President Praisner,
11 Yeah, I think the question is the growing expansion of the program at existing sites
12 versus expansion to new sites is always going to be a tug, but the further behind we get
13 in expansion is, you know, I have a concern if we are growing the program where it is.
14 But we aren't able to expand to more schools.

15
16 Ms. Garvey,
17 It isn't so much we are growing at the current sites, it is that, you know, through the
18 Linkages to Learning Advisory Group, the clear picture was that we have grown the
19 program significantly without expanding the infrastructure that's needed to truly manage
20 it and monitor it appropriately. And so until that is addressed, the feeling was we need to
21 really strengthen the internal operation. So it isn't we are adding to the current sites, it's
22 we are taking a stoppage for this year.

23
24 Councilmember Leventhal,
25 On the high school Wellness Center, we recommended \$125,000 reduction in operating
26 expenses for the Wellness Center in the Northwood High School because we believe
27 that -- and the department informed us that it would take a little bit longer to issue the
28 RFP and select a vendor, and that we probably couldn't spend that full amount in the
29 coming year. We certainly support the establishment of the Wellness Center. And let me
30 also just say to get back to Linkages to Learning -- I mentioned this in committee. I do
31 think it bears mentioning here as well. This is the first time that the Linkages to Learning
32 program has come before the full Council that Councilmember Subin, who really was
33 the sponsor of the program, was not present. And we should note and thank him for this
34 is many, many years of support in really initiating the program in the first place. It
35 wouldn't exist if not for Mike Subin. He continues to be a great champion even though
36 he's out of office.

37
38 President Praisner,
39 Are we doing any evaluation of the structure of the Wellness programs at the high
40 school centers or -- we don't have that many, but -- .

41
42 Ms. Garvey,
43 This would be our first high school Wellness Center -- .
44



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1 President Praisner,
2 I know.

3
4 Ms. Garvey,
5 (inaudible).

6
7 President Praisner,
8 (inaudible) developing a structure that we can evaluate that from that perspective
9 (inaudible).

10
11 Ms. Garvey,
12 Yeah, that's our hope to do and overarching advisory committee for the County and also
13 to have an evaluation piece for future.

14
15 Councilmember Leventhal,
16 Okay, on page 60, we're on School Health Services. There is a substantial increase
17 here -- \$2.5 6 million for a total of \$18.06 million in the County Executive's budget. The
18 largest chunk of this is \$1.78 million to implement a negotiated agreement between the
19 County government and McGeeo for the additional time and the additional staff that will
20 expand the hours in which school health services are available. The committee
21 understands -- the joint committee understands that children don't get sick according to
22 staff schedules. It is a lot of money and the -- there was extensive discussion in the two
23 committees about the reasons for it and the need for it, and that is laid out on pages 61
24 and 62. For services to children with special needs, we concurred with the Executive's
25 recommendation of \$2.06 million to provide evaluation assessment and early
26 intervention services to families with children under age three where there is a concern
27 about development or where a developmental delay is documented. On page 63,
28 regarding Public Private Partnerships, we had quite a bit of discussion here regarding
29 two significant programs that address some of the very young people that we have been
30 talking about; the young people that we want to provide opportunities and positive
31 constructive programs. And the first one, the Sharp Street program, has been in place
32 for many years. It is being administered by a new vendor. In the past it was
33 administered by the Mental Health Association and -- and somebody, Karen or Kate,
34 remind me, who is it?

35
36 Unidentified,
37 Guide.

38
39 Councilmember Leventhal,
40 Guide is providing this now. We heard from Guide at the joint committee meeting that it
41 was their preference that their contract continue to be administered by the Health and
42 Human Services Department. The joint committees went along with that. And I am
43 going to speak to George B. Thomas Learning Academy next, but let me say that an
44 issue for future, which sort of crosscuts a lot of the conversation we have been having



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1 here, is the concern about contract monitoring within the department; this is within the
2 HHS Department. This is a big basket of issues here. It has to do with the assessment
3 of our contracts with nonprofit groups that we have been talking about. Do we
4 continually need to add more positions in order to determine whether what we already
5 have is working and what we already funding is working; is that not a function of our
6 existing contract monitoring? Do we need more staff for contract monitoring? Why does
7 it often take too long for the money to get out the door? Why do we have nonprofit
8 providers frequently calling Councilmembers' offices to complain that contracts that
9 were executed many, many months prior have yet to pay? And they are waiting. And
10 can't pay their rent, and et cetera. So this is an ongoing issue we want to continue to
11 look at. We are proposing here that -- well, I am about to suggest the George B.
12 Thomas Learning Academy -- and I'll explain why in a moment -- be the second of these
13 two large contracts to continue under the oversight of the HHS Department. And the
14 simple reason for this -- and the committee did not come to closure on the question of
15 the George B. Thomas Learning Academy. So I have been in touch and George B.
16 Thomas and also Michael Thomas from the George B. Thomas Learning Academy are
17 both here. I've been in touch with them. And it is their desire that they have their
18 contract under the HHS Department as with Guide for the Sharp Suspension Program.
19 Now for both of these programs there is a history of independence from the school
20 system. And there is a variety of reasons and different reasons for the two programs
21 why it is important in their judgment to have that independence; and why, in fact, they
22 feel that community support is enhanced by having them outside the school system. In
23 both cases they feel that participants in the program have a certain confidence in the
24 provider because for whatever reason they have not gotten what they needed from the
25 school system. I don't want to be overbroad because the two programs are distinct, and
26 so I don't want to make any more generalizations because each program has its own
27 issues. But it happens in both cases they both want to stay within HHS, they both want
28 to stay independent as a school system, and for both of them I acknowledge that there
29 are going to be requirements with respect to contract monitoring that may or may not be
30 able to be performed within the current staffing and budgeting arrangement. I am not in
31 a position and the HHS committee is not in a position today to fix this problem. I don't
32 know how to fix it. And I don't think we have had extensive enough conversation with
33 you, Ms. Ahluwalia, to figure out what the problem is. We will talk about it in our retreat
34 in June. But for the time being we recommend -- the Executive's recommended the
35 level of funding for the Sharp Street program, \$455,357, in the base budget of the HHS.
36 We approve the Executive's recommended level of funding for the George B. Thomas
37 Learning Academy -- 1.054 million. In addition the George B. Thomas Learning
38 Academy would like to expand the provision of -- I am trying to get the correct
39 phraseology -- Out of School Time activities-- I'm sorry Saturday School -- this is for the
40 Saturday School; they want to expand -- they want to reduce the ratio of instructors to
41 students, and expand the availability of services for the Saturday School, and to -- and
42 so the joint committee's recommended placing \$748,850 on the reconciliation list in
43 three increments. We are not here addressing the George B. Thomas Learning



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1 Academy's interest in providing out of school time activity during the week; that is
2 pending in our grants process that is not before us now.

3
4 President Praisner,

5 No. That is a contract that they have with the Rec department. They may be requesting
6 some additional Out of School, but they have a contract with the Rec department. And
7 the expansion of the program to the new site of the Out of School would be a
8 contractually big process.

9
10 Councilmember Leventhal,
11 Uh-huh.

12
13 President Praisner,

14 So it isn't automatically a George B. Thomas program.

15
16 Councilmember Leventhal,

17 Uh-huh. Right. Actually, George B. Thomas is asking us for support and we are
18 delighted to provide support in several different arenas, and the Chair is correct that the
19 Rec department is one -- .

20
21 President Praisner,
22 (inaudible).

23
24 Councilmember Leventhal,

25 Absolutely, but they are also asking for a grant for Out of School Time. In any event that
26 is not what we are talking about now. What is very important here with respect to
27 George B. Thomas Learning Academy is that for the first time we are expressing the
28 strong recommendation that we include this permanently in the HHS Department's
29 budget. In the past the George B. Thomas Learning Academy has not been provided by
30 the Executive or the Council with certainty that they would be back next year; that the
31 funding would stay in place. And that has made it very difficult for this entity, which is
32 celebrating, I believe, its 20th year. It has been in place for 20 years. It has broad
33 community support. It has hundreds of successful participants who have gone on to
34 achieve great things in their professional lives. The school system thinks it is a terrific
35 program. Those who have interacted with it think it is a terrific program. And yet we
36 have been funding it year-to-year and creating great uncertainty in its programming and
37 planning. And so we are recommending for the first time that it be made a permanent
38 part of the HHS base. And those are the two private/public partnerships that the two
39 committees addressed. Is there discussion on either of those?

40
41 President Praisner,

42 Yes, Councilmember Elrich first.

43
44 Councilmember Elrich,



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1 Just a request for additional information on the George B. Thomas; I would like to get
2 data on the students that they serve, not just the post test data, but pretest data. What
3 is the population that they are serving? I have seen the numbers on the post test but
4 post test doesn't tell you anything until you know what it was like before that.

5
6 President Praisner,
7 Councilmember Knapp.

8
9 Vice President Knapp,
10 Thank you, Madam President. And so we also, just to clarify our consolidating within
11 HHS all of George B. Thomas' activities in one?

12
13 Essie McGuire,
14 No, we are consolidating the funds for the Saturday School which are currently
15 budgeted in a number of locations in the Executive's budget. And so the committee's
16 recommendation is to place those in one location and place them into HHS.

17
18 Vice President Knapp,
19 Good, thank you.

20
21 President Praisner,
22 That is not the after school program, which is a contract and is a pilot at this point, as far
23 as the after school programming at the high school centers. The one comment that I
24 had is about the procurement process. Having served as Chair of MFP for many years
25 where we have had these conversations about procurement, both from a small business
26 perspective as well as from a contract relationship perspective, I have tried very hard
27 and I think the departments need to try even harder to -- and we do as Councilmembers
28 need to make sure we -- I still want to find a name other than grant because it leaves
29 some impression that a check can be written the day it is awarded -- to try to impress
30 upon people that in many cases it is delivery of service and reimbursement, not -- just
31 as the federal government does with Homeland Security grants. You have to buy the
32 product then you get it reimbursed. So you have to demonstrate. So there are a variety
33 of situations that nonprofits find themselves in. And there are -- I would, I think, have the
34 department also agree, differences depending upon the contract monitor, within HHS,
35 both from the program contract monitor and from the contract component within HHS
36 that does -- so you have the program managers and then you have the contract
37 management before it even gets to procurement. I think those processes have raised
38 questions. I think the nonprofits, especially where they may have multiple contracts with
39 different program managers, are part of the reason why they say well how come this
40 one does this and this one does not? Those are the issues that I think warrant
41 significant conversation, as well as this issue of how you deal with nonprofits. But in any
42 case, we all need to remember that folks are doing good work, but this is -- they are in
43 essence having a business relationship with the government, and this is taxpayer
44 dollars, and there are still requirements for certain procedures to be in place before folks



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1 get taxpayer dollars. We need audits not just of fire overtime. We also need audits in
2 some cases of these kinds of funds as well. So I think there is more work that needs to
3 be done internal to the department, but there is more work that also needs to be done of
4 an education basis with the nonprofits to understand exactly what the award means.

5
6 Ms. Ahluwalia,

7 If I might just respond to that, there is a lot of interest right now both in the nonprofit
8 community and in the public sector to try to get to a better place on contracting and to
9 address the whole grants issue as well. If they want to have a cost-of-living adjustment,
10 that's more than at the will of the Council, which, you know, if it is a CPI at 3% or 4%, it
11 has to not be a grant. A grant by definition is a one-year award with no guarantees
12 beyond it. So we are having conversations. There is the new office of Nonprofit --
13 Community Relations with Ms. Adams heading it. In fact tomorrow morning is our
14 second meeting with the nonprofit round table to talk about -- to work on two tiers. The
15 first is the process improvements that the department needs to make that will help make
16 the contracting process simpler. And the second is a larger more strategic public policy
17 conversation about what does it mean to have different opportunities for contracting;
18 what should they look like; what do we want the outcomes to look like; and how do we
19 get there. And so there are two tiers to this conversation, and we're in agreement and
20 we're moving forward. Having David Dice, the Director of Procurement, have such a
21 wealth of knowledge and information is also very helpful. So we are very engaged on
22 this issue and we'll have more for you in the coming months.

23
24 President Praisner,

25 I think that is very helpful because it is not necessarily a good idea to be embedded
26 within the department at a dollar amount without having a contractual relationship that is
27 reviewed on a cycle basis of say every five years, et cetera, or every three years,
28 because that contractual review is actually the opportunity for a true-up of the actual
29 costs. Because you go out for procurement and find out what nonprofits need in order to
30 bid. So I think those are helpful conversations. Okay, anything else from the committee?

31
32 Councilmember Leventhal,

33 Not on the partnerships. The Community Cluster Projects, I am going to ask Chairman
34 Knapp to fill in here because I know there was more discussion of this in his committee
35 with respect to the \$100,000 that was in the County Executive's budget for the
36 Department of Health and Human Services -- well originally it was in the Community
37 Grants NDA. There was a study of academic achievement in the Kennedy Cluster; the
38 intent -- and Councilmember Ervin is closely associated with this and she can describe
39 it further herself if she would like to. But the intent is to really in great depth study the
40 specific circumstances affecting African American academic achievements in a specific
41 high school cluster with the hope that the in-depth study of those circumstances would
42 lead us to conclusions about how to improve African American academic achievement
43 throughout the system. The County Executive recommended \$100,000 for that as a
44 separate grant for facilitation and research. The committee has agreed that that should



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1 by competitively bid through the Department of Health and Human Services. And that
2 was a unanimous recommendation. There is also in the School Board's request
3 \$150,000 associated with this. And I have not been privy to the conversations. We had
4 some discussion of that in the joint committee, but I believe the education committee
5 discussed that further on its own. So if Chairman Knapp or Ms. Ervin would like to
6 speak to that.

7
8 Vice President Knapp,
9 I'll see if Councilmember Ervin wants to make some brief remarks.

10
11 Councilmember Ervin,
12 I would like to make a couple of comments after listening to the discussion of the HHS
13 Department's budget. And a couple of notes that I have written down as we've gone
14 through this budget have to do with our previous discussion on the Minority Health
15 Initiatives. And a couple of Councilmembers made comments about how important it is
16 to have an analytic approach to health disparities in the same way I see us having an
17 analytic approach to closing the achievement gap. And so I listened to Councilmember
18 Elrich talk earlier about at risk-youth, graduation rates, economic failure, et cetera. It all
19 goes back to this real serious and pervasive problem about the achievement gap
20 between African American, Latino students and their white and Asian counterparts. And
21 so the purpose of this study is to look at a geographic area in the County that has a
22 majority of African American students, and many of those students are not faring very
23 well in the system. I believe there is a nexus between all of this conversation about
24 youth who are at risk of gang violence and youth violence, dropout rates, the spike in
25 the number of juveniles who are arrested in our County; and all of these things are all
26 connected in some way. And so this disparity in our school system is something that I
27 think deserves to be looked at more closely. We received a letter from the Board of
28 Education President Nancy Navarro, which I think is an outstanding letter that describes
29 what the school system's portion of this study will look like. And it is on Circle 150 if you
30 want to take a look at that. So this is to give us the kind of solid data that we need in
31 Montgomery County Public Schools. And I believe that everything that Marc Elrich said
32 earlier and Mr. Leventhal said earlier bares itself out in the school system. And if you
33 look at who is in jail right now, and you did a quick baseline analysis of the reading level
34 of those individuals who are incarcerated, you will find that many of these young men
35 don't read very well; they didn't do well in school; they dropped out early; and so a lot of
36 these social problems are connected to, I believe, the kind of education that these
37 young people are able to receive in our public school system. And so I will stop there.
38 You asked for a letter from the Board of Education. It is attached in Circle 150. We had
39 a very long conversation about this in joint committee, and I think that the committee's
40 recommendation was, I think, it is listed here somewhere, where the committee's
41 recommendation was to -- .

42
43 Vice President Knapp,



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1 The committee recommended to shift it from \$100,000 from the community grants NDA
2 to DHHS for competitive bid, and then within the education committee we supported
3 moving ahead, although Councilmember Andrews felt that the first \$100,000 increment
4 that is within this budget was sufficient. And so we can I think relative to the letter
5 provided by the Board of Education, that if we have specific people who have specific
6 questions on that, tomorrow we will have the board here with us. It would be a good
7 time to ask those.

8
9 Councilmember Leventhal,

10 Okay. Then regarding Pre-kindergarten and Head Start Services, this is an area of great
11 interest. We have had a rich discussion of this in the joint committee. We are facing a
12 state mandate that we significantly expand the number of three- and four-year-olds who
13 have access to these services. They are very expensive and we are trying to ascertain
14 what state support might be forthcoming to pay for this state mandate. In the meantime
15 Councilmember Ervin proposed, and the committee has agreed to place on the
16 reconciliation list, \$245,000 for a community- based pre-K pilot program that would
17 support 40 children beginning in January. Now I know there have been some -- there
18 may have been a lack of clarity in terms of the committee's instruction. What I recall
19 from the discussion was that the department believe that given the number of families
20 that were not now being served by head start or pre-K programs that we could find 40
21 participants through this pilot program in January if we got started now, and that it
22 probably wasn't possible to get something started in September, even though preschool
23 programs tend to start at the beginning of the school year; we thought it probably wasn't
24 feasible to get started that early. I -- is that -- are we clear on that? Are we all on the
25 same page about that as to when this would begin if we are able to fund it? Okay, I had
26 heard there might be some misunderstanding about that. But it sounds like we're on
27 track on that if we are able to identify the funds, this would be a pilot program for these
28 services in the community. And there has been both the HHS and Education
29 committees have had a great deal of interest over the years in finding alternative
30 models for these pre-K and head start programs. We do believe that the services are of
31 very high quality in school buildings with school personnel. They are also of high cost.
32 These are costly programs no matter how you provide them. We continue to hope that
33 through community providers we may be able to reduce the cost and expand the
34 availability of these programs. Essie, did you want to comment on this? Okay. Chairman
35 Knapp or any other members? No. Okay. And that would conclude the Department of
36 Health and Human Services.

37
38 Vice President Knapp,

39 Well done, Mr. Chairman. That actually concludes our work here today, okay, since
40 President Praisner stepped out but we have done everything on our list. So with that I
41 believe we are in recess until tomorrow morning at 9:30, when we have a couple of
42 broad Council items and then turn to the MCPS budget I believe at 9:55 is on the
43 schedule and that will be our chore for tomorrow. So I thank the department for their
44 afternoon, their endurance and your support. Thank you very much.

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